

## Mellor starts a storm over Gaza 'shame'

### Israel condemned for affront to civilization

By Ian Murray in Jerusalem and Andrew McEwen in London

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, yesterday described conditions in the Gaza Strip as "an affront to civilized values" and said he was shocked by the failure of the Israeli Government to improve them after 20 years of occupation.

His remarks, made after a visit which moved him deeply, upset the Israeli Government and sparked strong reactions from other British MPs.

Foreign Ministry officials suggested after the meeting that Mr Mellor's forthright comments could well result in Israel complaining to Britain.

After a meeting with Mr Shimon Peres, the Foreign

Minister, Mr Mellor said that he was particularly distressed by the way a Palestinian woman had been shot dead by soldiers during a demonstration near Jerusalem on Sunday afternoon.

Mr Peres had tried to reassure him that the killing was contrary to Israeli policy and that an investigation was in progress.

Israeli officials were unhappy that Mr Mellor had tackled an officer on duty at

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the Jabalya camp and told him off over the detention of a 14-year-old boy suspected of stone throwing.

At Westminster last night some MPs were bitterly critical, while others praised Mr Mellor for his courage.

Mr Greville Janner, Labour MP for Leicester West, said last night: "He has not given an impression of profound statesmanship. If an American came over on a fact-finding mission to Northern Ireland and behaved as he has done, I doubt whether we would be particularly impressed. He has clearly reduced Britain's chances of making a constructive effort in an anguished situation."

The opposite view was taken by Mr John Cartwright, MP for Woolwich and SLD Whip. "I am very encouraged that he has not only been to see the situation but has had the courage to say what he felt," he said.

Mr Mellor is to see Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, today when he has promised to once again raise his criticisms of Israeli policy in the occupied territories.

On yesterday's evidence it promises to be a stormy meeting.

In the course of a crowded hour Mr Mellor toured that part of Jabalya camp not currently under curfew, heard complaints of Israeli mistreatment from waiting women and angry youths, and watched food being distributed.

Under the watchful eye of men of the Givati Brigade, he heard the protest of a middle-aged woman, holding a barefooted girl against her black robe to protect her from the rain. "They enter the houses in the night and beat the children," she said.

Near the entrance to the UN Relief and Work Agency school Mr Mellor went unannounced into the home of Mr Nabil Hussein Abu Mansour, a 30-year-old cripple who is the school caretaker. Mr Abu Mansour told the minister how he had been beaten up by the soldiers only five days before. "It is not a very happy life for you," Mr Mellor said. "That is a matter for Allah," the caretaker replied.

As he slipped coffee offered in ritual hospitality, Mr

Mellor heard stories about a youth who was said to have died when soldiers refused permission for his friends to take him to hospital and about the way the first casualty was killed "when it would have been easier to arrest him but they preferred to shoot".

Watching the Givati refuse to allow a woman through to her home in the curfew area, Mr Mellor called for the radio and television microphones to make his anger known to as wide an audience as possible.

"Conditions here are an affront to civilized values and it is appalling that a few miles up the coast from here there is prosperity while here there is misery on a scale that rivals anything in the world," he said.

"Gaza is in a state of limbo after 20 years of occupation. Israel cannot duck its responsibilities. The violence going on here is going to continue as long as the state of limbo exists."

"What is clear is that these people have to have some hope for the future. Conditions here are markedly worse than anywhere else in the occupied territories. Here one sees the appalling consequences of the last 20 years. Israel cannot ignore these tendencies. To write them off as externally inspired or caused by the PLO is to totally underestimate the misery of the occupation. I am very shocked. I defy anyone to come here and not be shocked."

Inside the UN emergency food distribution centre Mr Mellor watched refugees, mostly women, clamouring and scrambling at the chicken wire round the counter where rations are handed out. Mr Bernard Mills, the British UN officer in charge of the Gaza camps, explained these people were the poorest 5 percent of the refugee population who had no income and lived at starvation level. Since nobody can work in Israel after being imprisoned for security offences, he said, the numbers of those without work was growing and soon 10 percent would qualify for the handout.

The food is all donated by the EEC - skimmed milk powder from Belgium, corned beef from France and tomato purée from Italy. One person's two-month allowance includes 20 kilos of flour, two kilos each of sugar and rice, 1½ kilos of butter oil, four tins of corned beef and two tins of skimmed milk powder.

Mr Mellor emerged from the store to find women starting a demonstration outside the military post which adjoins the UN depot. He was told they were trying to obtain the release of boys who had just been arrested for stone throwing. The father of one of them, Mr Ahmed Abu Shariyah, said his 14-year-old son Rami had been caught

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## Welcoming waves for Thatcher visit



Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, heading for the State House in Nairobi with President Moi after a colourful welcome by brightly-clad dancers at the start of her four-day visit to Kenya yesterday. Tour anxiety mounting, page 5.

## Boy dies in flooded river

By Andrew Morgan and Craig Seton

A girl, aged nine, dived into a flood-swollen river in a vain attempt to save her mentally handicapped brother as heavy rain, gales and snow continued to bring chaos to the Welsh Marches yesterday.

Rebecca Matthews, from Livingston, near Llanidloes, Hereford and Worcester, struggled in the flooded River Little Arrow to hold on to her brother, Christopher, aged 11, but he slipped from her grasp.

Christopher, who suffered from Down's Syndrome, fell into the river near their home while he and his sister were playing with a farmer's dog.

Christopher stepped back and overbalanced into the river, which had swollen to depths of 10 ft. A police helicopter was called into the search for Christopher's body, which was found two hours later.

Mr Richard Matthews, Christopher's father, said: "Rebecca jumped in and managed to grab Christopher, but he was too heavy. She was lucky to get out alive."

In Shropshire, hundreds of homes were on alert after the River Severn, at its highest level for 20 years, threatened to flood. Roads in the Shropshire area were closed because of flooding and thousands of acres of farmland in the Upper Severn valley were under water.

Police praised the courage of Mr Andrew O'Neil, aged 21, who dived into the swollen River Wye at Hereford to save Mrs Gladys

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## US and Russia step up Afghan peace initiative

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Diplomatic efforts to solve the Afghan war were stepped up yesterday when Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, made an unexpected trip to Kabul and Mr Michael Armacost, the US Under-Secretary of State, began a three-day visit to Pakistan.

Both visits were seen as important for the next round of the long-running United Nations peace talks on Afghanistan, expected to open in February. The negotiations are deadlocked over the question of an agreed timetable for the withdrawal of the 115,000 Soviet troops.

Tass described Mr Shevardnadze's trip as "a working visit" and Western observers said his report to the Kremlin on his return could have far-reaching consequences for the next steps in Soviet policy.

President Najibullah, he met Mr Shevardnadze's last visit to the Afghan capital almost a year ago on January 5 1987, had been timed to coincide with the start of the new policy of national reconciliation and

followed by the unilateral ceasefire on January 15. This was rejected by the Muslim rebels but still nominally remains in force.

Mr Shevardnadze's visit last year, when he was accompanied by Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, Mr Gorbachev's main foreign policy adviser, was the first by such senior members of the Kremlin.

Islamabad (Reuters) - M Alauddin, a French journalist who entered Afghanistan with Muslim rebels, was jailed yesterday for 10 years for spying, Kabul Radio said. M Guillou, aged 45, was captured in September.

Interest in Mr Shevardnadze's return to Kabul has been intensified because it follows on the failure of the Washington summit to make progress on the Afghan question and coincides with AF-

ghan claims to have broken the guerrilla siege of the key provincial city of Khost.

Yesterday, Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Kremlin's chief spokesman, denied reports by Western news agencies that fighting was still continuing in the area of Khost. He quoted the Soviet military command in Afghanistan as claiming: "There are now no military activities in the area of the Gardez-Khost road and the situation there is calm."

Mr Gerasimov told reporters that the 80-mile approach road from Gardez had been opened on December 30 and that every day since, a column of 200 trucks had been delivering supplies to Khost, mainly of food. He said 4,500 tonnes of supplies had already been delivered.

On Sunday, the Mujahidin claimed their forces were still blocking the road, but an eyewitness reported seeing a 40-vehicle convoy advancing towards Khost on the previous day. Soviet television has shown pictures of a con-

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## Epidemic inquiry after three die

By Craig Seton and Jill Sherman

Health officials were last night trying to trace dozens of people who have been in contact with the victims of an outbreak of meningitis in Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, which has claimed three lives and left two others ill.

They are also trying to discover if the meningococcal outbreak is linked with the epidemic in Stroud.

Four of the five victims of the brain disease admitted to Worcester Royal Infirmary and East Birmingham Hospital since Boxing Day lived on the same Poolbrook housing estate in Malvern.

They included a boy aged three and a woman aged 63. Both have since died.

The other death was that of Mr Philip Chapman, aged 18, who lived a mile away in Barnard's Green, Malvern, but worked in Stroud, Gloucestershire, 25 miles away.

Mr David Chapman, father of Philip, said that his son had died on Boxing Day within 24 hours of being admitted to Worcester Royal Infirmary with a severe sore throat.

In the past six years, 110 people have contracted the B15 strain of meningococcal meningitis and seven have died in Gloucester health authority. However it is still unclear whether the same strain has hit the Malvern area.

The meningococcus organism is believed to be transmitted through coughing and sneezing and many people exposed to it become carriers without developing the symptoms.

Early symptoms include a skin rash, fever and headaches. Although vaccines exist

Disease control.....3

for some strains of meningitis, scientists at Porton Down and the Wellcome laboratories are still trying to find a vaccine for the virulent B strain. Last September Norwegian scientists reported that they hoped to develop such a vaccine later this year.

Yesterday health officials warned parents to be on the lookout for signs of the disease. But the outbreak has caused concern among some parents in Malvern and 12 out of the 90 pupils at the Poolbrook primary school on the estate where four of the victims lived, were kept away at the start of term yesterday.

A spokesman for West Midlands regional health authority said yesterday that all the doctors in the area had been contacted and had been asked to be extra vigilant.

"Anyone suspected of having the illness should be

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## Dollar rise boosts City prices

By David Smith

Share prices ended the first trading day of the new year strongly higher, with the City encouraged by a support operation for the dollar by the leading central banks.

The FT-SE 100 index closed with a gain of 34.8 points at 1,747.5. On Wall Street last night, the Dow Jones industrial average was up by nearly 74 points at 2,012.71.

A good performance for share prices in the early days of the "new" is traditionally regarded as a good omen, although many of the old preconceptions about the markets have been upset by last October's crash.

After falling to a record low of just above ¥120 in Tokyo, the dollar recovered, aided by \$1.5 billion (£800 million) of central bank support, led by the Bank of Japan and the West German Bundesbank.

The dollar closed at almost ¥123, well up on the day, and gained 1.7 pence to DM1.5880. The pound fell on the dollar's recovery, dipping 1.25 cents to \$1.8725.

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Revised dollar, page 21  
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## BP offer ends

The Government's offer to buy back the partly-paid British Petroleum shares at 70p expires at 3pm tomorrow. The original offer price was 120p.

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## Orwin recall

The England Rugby Union team to play France on January 16 includes three new caps with John Orwin recalled to lead the forwards.

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## Portfolio £16,000 to be won

There is £16,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio Gold competition today because there have been no winners for the last three days of the competition.

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## Vengeance threat after Israeli attacks kill 19

Beirut (Reuters) - Two guerrilla groups vowed revenge for the deaths of at least 19 people in Israeli attacks in south Lebanon as Palestinians prepared to bury their dead in a mass funeral yesterday.

The Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and the radical Fatah Revolutionary Council led by Abu Nidal issued separate state-

ments vowing to avenge the dead.

In Tyre, security sources said an Iranian-backed Lebanese Muslim guerrilla had been killed when fighters of the Muslim Resistance, a coalition led by pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) militants, ambushed Israeli troops near the village of Kabriha in an Israeli-declared "security zone" on Sunday night.

Mr Richard Green, aged 51, who has spent his life in the mid-western city, was chosen on Saturday as the best hope for stemming the slide into chaos after a withering four-month political battle. Mr Green is the head of the Minneapolis school system, which is one-twentieth the size of New York's.

"I am not the Lone Ranger from Minneapolis who is going to ride out there and solve all of the problems singlehandedly," Mr Green said.



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## Big benefits fraud drive to cut jobless

By Tim Jones

A big drive against benefits fraud is being organized as part of a sustained Government campaign to reduce unemployment to less than 2.5 million.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, will announce next month that the number of benefit fraud investigators is to be increased from 700 to almost 800.

In the past 12 months, investigators have uncovered frauds totalling more than £50 million by people making false claims for unemployment when they are working.

The officers will usually announce their investigations but they will be briefed also to make surprise raids.

They will pay special attention to mini-cab drivers, motor bike couriers and thousands of people employed in the catering industry.

The move, to be announced

in a White Paper to be published next month, comes after a trial run on the South Coast last summer when 1,300 claimants, more than a quarter of the 4,400 investigated, ceased to claim. The exercise is estimated to have saved about £1.2 million at a cost of just over £100,000.

Mr Fowler said last night: "There is no question that there is a substantial black economy in this country. The evidence we have from a number of investigations establishes the fact."

"It is a minority who are abusing the system and we want to demonstrate there is no justification for people working and drawing benefits."

Part of the initiative will be a £1.5 billion training programme to switch the emphasis from providing temporary jobs to giving the long-term unemployed proper training for permanent work.

Mr Green was selected after a bout of last-minute in-fighting on the school board when a dissident black faction tried to impose a new candidate who had not been on the short list. Three of the seven board members eventually voted against Mr Green, who becomes the city's first black school leader.

The new chancellor, who has a reputation as a tough administrator in his home town, starts with the opposition of the teachers' union, which insisted until the last minute that the job go to Mr Bernard Gifford, a former official in the system.

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Airlines draw up merger timetable

Senior executives from British Airways and British Caledonian met yesterday to try to draw up a timetable for the merger of the two airline companies by April 1.

BA sources said that negotiations were running smoothly but there was no sign yet of an agreed programme. "We are working as speedily as we can to get the merger settled", one official said.

Mr Peter Owen, BA's director of operations, who is heading the so-called implementation group, raised the issue of redundancies at the meeting at Gatwick airport.

It has already been announced that 2,000 jobs will have to go, through natural wastage, early retirement and voluntary redundancy. They will be spread throughout both airlines.

Sir Adam Thomson, the B-Cal chairman, has written to shareholders, underlining the airline board's unanimous acceptance of the BA offer. The majority of B-Cal shareholders have already accepted the deal.

## News girl Chisel to quit charges

Debbie Thrower, who has presented BBC's mid-evening news since the autumn, is leaving the programme at her own request. She says she does not want to be confined to studio work and is soon due to present *Hospital Watch*, a programme reporting on Britain's medical establishments.

Mr Robin Walsh, a news and current affairs chief at BBC TV, said: "We are sorry she has decided to leave the 9 o'clock news. We respect her reasons and we wish her every success in the future."

The trial was adjourned.

## Prison action verdict

Prison officers' leaders will today know the results of a ballot for industrial action amid forecasts of a substantial majority in support of a tough stand over manning levels.

Senior officials within the Prison Officers' Association are meeting this week to consider the result and any proposed action.

Mr George Elliott, vice-chairman of the association, said yesterday that if the officers were forced he had no doubt that they would carry out industrial action. The association officials expect 19,000 officers out of a membership of 23,000 will have voted. Estimates of up to 70 per cent in favour of industrial action have been circulated.

## Actress dies at 90

Margot Bryant, the actress who played Minnie Caldwell in *Coronation Street*, has died in The Cheshire Royal Hospital, Manchester, aged 90.

She left the serial in 1976 after 16 years and 560 episodes, and lived for a time in Hove, East Sussex.

Miss Bryant, who once danced in the Fred Astaire stage show *Stop Flirting*, was the daughter of a doctor from Hull and started her stage career as a chorus girl in pantomime.

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## Stowaways returned

Seven stowaways who arrived in Britain last month seeking political asylum are to be refused entry, it was announced yesterday.

The men, who claimed to be Iranian and Iraqi, arrived in Liverpool on board the Greek cargo ship, *Nea Elpis*, on December 21.

They appealed for asylum and were held at a remand centre while the Home Office considered their case.

The Home Office said yesterday it had been decided that the men should be refused entry and would be returned to the ship on which they arrived, which sails for Indonesia later this week.

## Fears of pit 'ghost votes'

By Tim Jones

British Coal chiefs are concerned that militants could distort the election for the presidency of the National Union of Mineworkers by casting "ghost votes" in the ballot later this month.

The election, which will determine whether Mr Arthur Scargill defeats the challenge of Mr John Walsh to retain the post, is being conducted on the basis of membership returns for December 1986, when the NUM membership was said to be 104,000.

British Coal says that since then at least 20,000 men have left the industry and that this could lead to a "massive over-issue of ballot papers".

Privately, corporation chiefs fear the extra ballot papers could be filled in by extremists.

British Coal said yesterday: "We would expect the union to satisfy itself and its members that it has an up-to-date register of members for the ballot."

The NUM says that in its calculations, British Coal has not included members working for private contractors and at independent open cast mines.

He said the ballot papers would be counted by the Electoral Reform Society, who would check off names.

## Shah aims for tabloid 'standards'

By Our Media Editor

The new downmarket newspaper planned for later this year by Mr Eddie Shah would attempt to introduce standards into tabloid journalism, he said yesterday.

He said on BBC Radio's *The World at One*: "What pushed me into the decision was when there were so many nipples starting to appear on each page of *The Star*. I felt there was a fairly cynical thought of management who thought the only way to increase readership was to increase the nipple count."

"What we have got to do, without being Mary Whitehouseish about it, is to reintroduce a degree of standards into tabloid journalism."

Mr Shah, who last control of *Today*, his first venture into national newspapers, after a disastrous launch, said he had learnt the necessary lessons and, with no threat of union obstruction, he would contract out printing and distribution, leaving him free to concentrate on the product.

The *Post* or *The Globe*, as the six-day-a-week colour tabloid is likely to be known, would concentrate on entertainment and sport with news stories "of substance".

The paper would be set up in the North-west, possibly Warrington, where Mr Shah's successful *Messenger* group is based. Mr Shah would put in £1.5 million of the £5.5 million launch costs.

## New lifeboat director gets into training

By Gregory Weingarten

Lieutenant Commander Brian Miles, began his new job as director of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, by joining a crew training at the organization's headquarters in Poole, Dorset, yesterday.

Commander Miles, aged 50, is the first director to come from within the RNLI. He began 23 years ago as a lifeboat inspector in Scotland and Ireland.

"We are now undergoing a huge building programme so that we can have fast lifeboats at all our stations by 1993", he said. "Our old boats have top speeds of 8 knots and our new boats will travel at least twice that speed."

The RNLI is developing an entirely new class of lifeboat, the first (18 knot) carriage boat. The organization has 350 vessels, ranging from 16 ft inflatable lifeboats to 52 ft, 30-tonne iron class boats, spread over 200 stations in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

To mark the 150th anniversary of the rescue by Grace Darling and her father of survivors from the *Forfarshire* in 1838, the RNLI is launching the Grace Darling Appeal for a new lifeboat for North Sunderland lifeboat station, Northumberland, at the London International Boat Show on January 13.



Lieutenant-Commander Brian Miles, the new director of the RNLI, with a crew from Moelfre, North Wales, who are training aboard their lifeboat, the Robert and Violet (Photograph: Nick Rogers).

## Praise and blame for Prime Minister's 3,000 days Ingham 'lobby against ministers'

By Nicholas Wood

Political Correspondent

Sir John Nott yesterday accused Mr Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary, of maliciously using private lobby meetings and gossip to denigrate Cabinet ministers at odds with Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

The former Secretary of State for Defence said he found the practice "sickening" and said it devalued her otherwise remarkable record.

Sir John's angry new attack in comments to *The Times* on one of the Prime Minister's key aides came as BBC television's *Panorama* screened a candid assessment of her record-breaking eight years in power.

The programme included both warm praise and trenchant criticism, with Sir John describing her as one of the

greatest prime ministers this century, but one who had to be restrained from going over the top by those of her colleagues who had served under Mr Edward Heath.

Sir John was said by associates to have intensified his attack on Mr Ingham yesterday in the wake of the weekend furore over the programme, after reading that sources close to the Prime Minister were saying that the story of her life was chronicled by the jaded journal of departed or disappointed men.

The former defence minister said in his full interview that future scholars will require a new edition of Machiavelli's *The Prince* to explain "the way the lobby has been used by No 10 to raise the cult of personality so far as the Prime Minister is concerned, rather at the expense of colleagues who have hap-

pened to disagree at the time".

Meanwhile, in another BBC television programme, *Newsnight*, Mr Heath, the former Conservative prime minister, widened the focus of criticism of the Prime Minister and her use of her staff by saying that he believed that the post of Cabinet Secretary had been "misused" during Mrs Thatcher's tenure.

But his strictures were mild compared with remarks made by Lord Havers, the former Lord Chancellor, in the same programme in an attempt to defend the decision to call Sir Robert Armstrong as the chief Government witness during the *Spycatcher* affair.

In what appeared to be a gaffe, he described Sir Robert as the "natural fall guy".

He said: "I do not see how using Sir Robert as a witness in *Spycatcher* is misuse of a Civil Servant. It seems to me he was

the natural fall guy — the one who knew the most if I can say that."

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the Commons, said: "He is thought to be a very effective advocate of the Government's case. The truth is that such criticism as there is comes from departed ministers."

Told of Sir John's attack before leaving the Prime Minister, Mr Ingham said: "There is nothing I can do about people who make allegations without the slightest evidence."

Sir John, who resigned in 1983 to start a new career and is now chairman of Lazard Brothers, the merchant bankers, told *The Times*: "My long-standing criticism is the deplorable and malicious use of private lobby briefings and gossip to denigrate my political friends and colleagues, although I was never a victim myself."

Friends of Sir John during the Falklands conflict added yesterday that he believed that a host of former and current ministers including Mr John Biffen, Mr Norman Tebbit, Lord Young of Grahamam, Mr Peter Rees and Mr Patrick Jenkin had all suffered at Mr Ingham's tongue.

Mr Biffen, who incurred Mrs Thatcher's wrath by calling for a balanced leadership ticket before the election and was dismissed as Leader of the Commons afterwards, alluded to his fall from grace in the *Panorama* and *Three Thousand Days*.

He said: "I began to read about myself. I did not need too much guidance as the source of that speculation, which was then being carried by the newspapers. I think it was Mr Bernard Ingham. It was a very good phrase (that) I was semi-detached."

## Tory MP attacks use of injunctions

By Richard Evans

Media Editor

The chairman of the Conservative backbench media committee gave his full support yesterday to outspoken criticism by Mr Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC, against the Government's legal clampdown on broadcasters and newspapers.

Mr John Gort, MP for Hendon North, said Mrs Margaret Thatcher's administration was beginning to look "rather stupid" as it continually sought injunctions to prevent newspapers publishing memoirs of former security service chiefs, or radio and television from broadcasting sensitive programmes.

Mr Gort's attack came

after Mr Hussey told a BBC Television "phone-in" programme that it was "very serious indeed the way this Government is continually resorting to the courts to try and make their own point".

Mr Hussey, who appeared with Mr Michael Checkland, director general of the BBC, said that the Government's action could ultimately be "a very serious threat to the liberty of the press".

Mr Gort said that while the Government was within its rights to seek injunctions against the media, there was a difference between having a right and displaying wisdom. "I think they are unwise to assert their rights in this

because I think the consequences ultimately are, exactly as Duke Hussey forecast, a threat to the freedom of the press and media as a whole."

He said that to his knowledge, the D notice system had not been flouted in such a way as to make injunctions the only alternative for the Government. The action could ultimately threaten the reputation of the judiciary.

Mr Gort said: "If the judiciary find for the Government on things that common sense dictate ought to go against them, it puts a question mark over the judiciary's independence. If they find against the Government then the Government, or at least

some of its rather unthinking supporters, may be tempted to criticize the judiciary."

"Either way the judiciary will imperceptibly be drawn into the field of controversy when it ought to be left out of controversy," he said. The best thing that could happen would be for the private member's Bill of Mr Richard Shepherd, Tory MP for Aldridge Brownhills, or something similar, to become law so that the outdated Official Secrets Act could be amended.

The BBC reported a big response yesterday to its phone-in programme, which came after *See For Yourself*, a two-hour "shareholders' report" about the corporation.



Mr John Gort, MP for Hendon North, speaking.

## Thatcher crusade: Experts tackle society's ills

## Abuse of children

Reported cases of child abuse, particularly sexual abuse, are still rising sharply according to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Half yearly figures of registered cases, collected by the NSPCC, will be analysed at the end of this month and are expected to show an even sharper increase.

The 1986 figures published last June showed a 137 per cent increase in sexual abuse cases since 1985 — up from 2,932 to 6,330. Cases of both physical and sexual abuse rose over the year from 13,046 to 15,920 in England and Wales.

The NSPCC said yesterday: "Initial indications suggest that there will be a significant increase in registered child abuse cases when we analyse the figures later this month."

Referring to Mrs Thatcher's comments that cruelty to children was "the biggest blot on civilized life", the NSPCC gave a warning that abuse could not be equated with economic factors.

"People still abuse their children whether they are wealthy or poor. It is not just a question of pouring money at the problem." Although there was evidence that abuse was linked with bad housing and debt, it was also linked with marital breakdown.

"As a social problem, child abuse has been a phenomenon over the last two years. As the public becomes more aware of tragedies such as Jasmine Beckford and Kimberley Carlisle, so more cases come to light."

The rise in cases could be caused by more children being helped rather than an increase in abuse.

## Fears of the aged

Fresh initiatives by social agencies and the police to help the elderly against the risk of crime are under way, but Help the Aged yesterday echoed the Prime Minister's view that more could be done.

Yet both Help the Aged and Age Concern pointed out that the main problem with the elderly is fear of crime. A national poll in 1984 showed 75 per cent of old people thought they were more likely to be victims of crime, yet the rate of victimization among the over sixties was a third of that among the under sixties.

Age Concern said: "The first priority is to reassure people and there is a lot more that could be done to make them feel more secure."

Schemes are being run in parts of the country, with the aid of the Manpower Services Commission, providing the elderly with door chains, peep-holes on front doors and security locks. Police forces have also tried to explain to old people the levels of risk they face and the precautions they can take.

Last autumn, Help the Aged launched a campaign called "Be Safe" supported by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, and Mr Peter Inbert, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. The campaign, which is being enlarged this spring, aims to tell elderly people they are not particularly vulnerable in their own homes and how to take sensible precautions.

Help the Aged said that a poll last year showed that 8 per cent of the elderly who were questioned had been burgled in the past five years, compared with a national average of 4 per cent of the total population each year; 59 per cent had mortice locks; 55 per cent had door chains; 38 per cent window locks and 7 per cent peep-holes.

## Football violence

The determination to crack down on football hooliganism won support from the police and football authorities. And while the Government and Football League discuss ways to eradicate the problem, indications emerged of continued improvement in crowd control.

By the end of the season, if present trends continue, police expect to have maintained last year's 29 per cent increase in the number of arrests — a measure of the grip which has been taken on trouble makers. This is attributed to closed-circuit television, which enables police to pinpoint potential disorder, and curbs on alcohol.

The Football League said: "We welcome what the Prime Minister said. We have always felt football hooliganism was an extension of general social disorder but the clubs have done everything within their power to tackle it. This season there have been few incidents. The measures which have been introduced are paying dividends."

More than 60 of the 92 clubs in the league, including all in the first and second divisions, now have closed-circuit cameras. The Home Office said the Government was determined to seek further progress, in partnership with the football authorities, through measures such as the wider adoption of membership schemes and the provision, under the Public Order Act 1986, for banning individual supporters.

About 300 exclusion orders have been issued by magistrates in the first five months of the season against football hooligans and all but two clubs have membership schemes whereby an average of 45 per cent of the accommodation for home supporters is designated for members only.

## Massive parking in tunnel scheme

By Rodney Cowton

Transport Correspondent

A scheme to place an eight-lane motorway and a railway tunnel trunk system in a tunnel sunk in the bed of the river Thames would involve the construction of two huge car parks capable of holding 15,000 or more vehicles each at Vauxhall and Borough on the south bank of the Thames.

The plan for a tunnel in the Thames is one of three projects for solving traffic problems in London and the South-east which have been put forward by the Costain construction group, and which would be financed by private capital at an estimated cost of about £7 billion.

The other proposals are to construct an expressway on stilts 40ft to 60ft high around the full length of the M25, and to build, for about £3 billion, a high speed railway system linking Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, with the Continent via a London terminal and the Channel tunnel.

The proposed tunnel would be sunk into a trench in the bed of the Thames and would run for 16 miles from Chiswick, where it would link up with a spur from the M4 to Blackwall in east London. It is estimated that it would cost £2 billion.

Access would be at either end of the tunnel and at the two car parks which would cater for traffic for the West End and the City. A further access could be added later in the Wandswoth area.

It is estimated that 23,000 vehicles a day would use the car parks, and there would be 40,000 through vehicles daily. Tolls would be charged at £5 for through traffic or £15 for use of the tunnel and a car park.

Costain say the plans have been submitted to the Government "at high level".

The British Road Federation said the ideas were "fascinating but doubted if they were feasible".

A Severn Bridge tolls should be abolished and outstanding debts of nearly £60 million written off, Mr Roy Hughes, Labour MP for Newport East, said yesterday. The tolls were a barrier to trade, he said.

Leading article, page 11

## Activists' salvo for Alliance

By Our Political Correspondent

A phalanx of Liberal activists threw their weight behind the proposed merger of their party with the SDP yesterday in an attempt to drown out internal critics of the agreement.

A total of 650 members, including 100 former parliamentary candidates, 250 councillors and 60 constituency chairmen, have signed a full-page article appearing in this week's edition of the party newspaper calling for a speedy endorsement of the union.

Aspects of the agreement have been criticized by the Liberal Party council, Mr Tony Greaves, the veteran Liberal activist and member of the negotiating team, and Miss Rachael Pritchard, chairman of the Young Liberals and a negotiator.

The *Merger Now* group says: "Liberal support for unity with the SDP on the basis of the new constitution runs deep and strong."

It adds: "It shows that those party chauvinists who are trying to pick holes in what has been agreed are not typical."

"We acknowledge that there is a feeling that the name of the new party could be improved, but otherwise we have found a widespread belief that the negotiators on both sides have done a good job."

The Liberal statement was welcomed by Mr Tom McNally, a senior SDP negotiator.

Mr David Thomson, Hatfield's general manager, said yesterday: "Because of the delay we were unable to meet our times at the donor hospital."

Mr Neil Turnbull, the operations manager of Chalfont, the owners of the aircraft, said: "It is a great shame that the flight did not go ahead but the reasons were beyond anyone's control."

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## Short defeats US chess champion

By Harry Golombek

Russian, had drawn with Dr John Nunn in 22 moves.

Larsen (Denmark) and Speelman were meanwhile engaged in an interesting struggle, and Murray Chandler and international master Nigel Davies had reached a complicated stage.

He cleverly out-played the United States champion Joel Benjamin and won material which forced Benjamin's resignation at move 38.

Previously Lev Pashkis, the

ing Larsen in 28 moves and this now leaves Short with a clear lead.

At the end of the first time control Chandler beat Davies in 40 moves.

Short's win had enabled him to take the lead at least for the time being with four points out of six, but Larsen, with three-and-a-half out of five could still regain top place if he could win his latest game.

Just after the first time control, Speelman scored a great British success by beat-

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Just after the first time control, Speelman scored a great British success by beat-

An aircraft taking surgeons to collect a human heart for a transplant operation made an emergency landing at Heathrow Airport after engine failure.

The planned operation at Hatfield Hospital, west London, was cancelled as a result, the hospital confirmed last night.

The incident, the first of its kind, happened late on Sunday night. Five minutes after take-

off, the eight-seat Beach King Air 200 twin-engine aircraft turned back and landed with one engine. Five engines and ambulances lined the runway.

On board were three doctors from Hatfield who were travelling to a hospital in the north of England to collect a donor heart. Attempts to prepare another aircraft and complete the mission were abandoned.

A heart has to be transplanted within about five hours of its removal.

Mr David Thomson, Hatfield's general manager, said yesterday: "Because of the delay we were unable to meet our times at the donor hospital."

Mr Neil Turnbull, the operations manager of Chalfont, the owners of the aircraft, said: "It is a great shame that the flight did not go ahead but the reasons were beyond anyone's control."



## Businessman flew in to murder wife's lover, court told

A wealthy businessman flew across the Atlantic to murder his wife's lover in the bedroom of a London hotel, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Joseph Robb repeatedly stabbed his rival, Mr Michael Horton, a public relations executive, the jury was told.

Mr Robb allegedly told the police: "I saw him as the personification of everything that had happened, all the alienation that started it."

"My wife giving me the cold shoulder for the last eight weeks... the fact she was leaving... and all the deceit. This man in front of me had been intimate with my wife. I just wanted to keep on hitting him."

Mrs Sheila Robb said in a statement that when her husband flew to London, she called her lover and Mr Horton asked if Mr Robb was likely to be violent.

"I said absolutely not. Robb (the name she called her husband) does not lose his temper, he is always a very rational, lucid person who approaches problems logically and calmly," she said.

Mr Robb, aged 41, president of Northern Fine Foods of Toronto, has admitted manslaughter but denies murdering Mr Horton, also aged 41, European president of the New York-based public relations company, Burson Marsteller, last May.

Mr Horton died of stab wounds in the neck in room 838 of the Churchill Hotel, Portman Square.

Mr Anthony Glass, QC, for

the prosecution, said Mr Robb and his wife emigrated to Canada in 1975.

Between 1981 and 1985 Mr Horton also worked in Toronto and employed Mrs Robb. "A close relationship developed and by May last year it had turned into a love affair."

Mr Horton was posted to England, but they were able to continue their affair because both had to travel. Mr Robb was then unaware of the affair.

Two months before the killing, Mrs Robb told her husband she wanted a separation and that she had rented a flat in another part of Toronto. He was upset and from then on their relationship was strained.

Mr Robb allegedly said he learnt about his wife's affair a week before the killing when he found love letters from Mr Horton in her briefcase.

He learnt that Mr Horton would be in London the next week, so he cancelled his appointments and flew across the Atlantic, the court was told. He allegedly telephoned his rival and arranged an appointment for that evening.

Mr Robb booked into the Churchill Hotel, near the Portman Hotel. Before the meeting Mr Horton rang his lover in Canada and she later rang him back using a false name. A secretary described Mr Horton as being "uncharacteristically nervous", the court was told.

Mr Glass said that Mr Robb said the meeting began amiably enough when the two met in the hotel foyer, but in Mr

Robb's room it turned to violence.

Mr Robb allegedly hit his rival over the head with a bottle of mineral water and a bottle of gin and repeatedly stabbed him with a penknife.

Mr Glass said Mr Robb told police he killed Mr Horton in a blind rage during their conversation about the affair with his wife.

Mr Robb also allegedly told police he began to feel choked up as he talked with Mr Horton.

"I said I would do whatever I could to save our marriage, not just for Sheila and me, but for our children and our parents and the 22 years of our lives together. He sat there and nodded in agreement with me", Mr Robb allegedly said.

"Then somehow the knife was in my hand and I started stabbing. He was shouting 'Stop it'. I remember seeing blood on my hands and I stopped and he was very still."

Mrs Robb said she had met her husband when both were students at Trinity College, Dublin.

She said she met Mr Horton when she went to work for Burson Marsteller. "We formed a close friendship and it was widely assumed it was more than just friendship. That was not the case until recently."

She and Mr Horton discussed their future together while she was in London. She returned and admitted to Mr Robb that she was involved with someone else.

The hearing continues today.

## Dynasty at centre stage



Vanessa Redgrave and her actress daughter, Joely Richardson (left), aged 22, with Timothy Dalton at the Young Vic yesterday preparing to combine their talents for the first time on stage in Eugene O'Neill's *A Touch of the Poet*, from January 28. Miss Redgrave and her

daughter were last seen together in the film, *Wickerby*. In O'Neill's play they portray an American family running a shabby tavern in Boston in 1928. The work is being given a belated London premiere to mark the centenary of O'Neill's birth. (Photograph: John Rogers).

## 'Police had to shoot robber in museum raid'

Armed police shot dead a robber as his gang tried to rob a museum containing a valuable picture collection, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Dennis Bergin, aged 26, fell fatally wounded from a police bullet as he threatened officers with a sawn-off shotgun, Mr Timothy Langdale, for the prosecution, said.

"He died in hospital despite desperate efforts to save his life. But the officer who fired had no realistic alternative given the situation he faced", Mr Langdale said.

Bergin, wearing a crash helmet and with a shotgun hidden in his jacket, posed as a dispatch rider at the door of the Sir John Soane Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields, central London, last February.

Mr Langdale said Bergin was to pretend to be making a delivery. As the door opened, three other gang members were to force their way in and subdue any opposition they might encounter from staff.

"Their target was the museum, which had some very valuable paintings, including those by Turner, Hogarth and Canaletto. Each individual painting had a value of £150,000."

But police were aware of the scheme. Officers, two of them armed, had laid a trap.

Bergin was shot by a police officer as he forced his way in and as he was threatening police officers with his shotgun.

"He fell at the scene. The others were captured as they raced off in different directions", Mr Langdale said.

He alleged the other gang members, including Bergin's brother George, aged 23, were waiting in a getaway car nearby.

Mr Langdale described the scene inside the museum as officers lay in wait.

Two officers, Sergeants Richardson and Lecky, were armed. Sgt Kenneth Richardson, aged 32, fired three shots, one fatally wounding Bergin, Mr Langdale said.

Three unarmed policemen, named as Jardine, Anderson

and Sykes, were behind the front door as Bergin approached.

"As Jardine opened the door, he saw the barrel of a gun through the door jamb. Dennis Bergin barged forward. Jardine tried to hold the door but was propelled backwards."

"He heard shots and sustained cuts on his arm - possibly from splintering wood."

"Sykes and Anderson saw the barrel of a gun coming round the door, pointing at Jardine's chest. They were unable to prevent the door opening. They pulled Jardine back and pushed him to the floor and went down themselves."

"Anderson heard a voice outside shout. Richardson moved forward, seeing the three officers at the front door losing control. He saw the shotgun and thought their lives were in peril."

"Richardson fired three shots, the first two close together. But it happened in a second. It was all part of one pretty rapid action."

"He saw the door shuddering as it was pushed. The gunman seemed to be pushing his gun down toward the officers by the door." Mr Langdale said that after two shots, Bergin still had the gun and was waving it about the hallway. Richardson thought a third shot necessary. In his view, unarmed officers' lives were in immediate danger.

When Bergin's shotgun was inspected later, it was not loaded. But he had two cartridges in his hand.

In court are George Bergin, of Albany Rd, Ealing; Derek Smith, aged 22, of Gainsborough Towers, Northolt; Lee Frailing, aged 22, of Heydock Avenue, Northolt, all west London; and William McKimming, aged 27, address unknown.

Bergin, Frailing and McKimming deny conspiracy to rob. Bergin and Frailing plead not guilty to conspiracy to steal, while all four deny having a firearm with intent to commit robbery.

The trial continues today.

### Accountant demands job back

## Executive ejected by police

By Michael Horsnell

Police were called in by executives of the Guardian Royal Exchange yesterday to evict Mr Charles Robertson, the multinational insurance company's £43,000-a-year former chief accountant.

Mr Robertson, aged 49, was dismissed last May for alleged gross misconduct but an industrial tribunal found before Christmas that he had been wrongfully dismissed and should be reinstated in the new year.

He walked into his fifth floor office at the company's headquarters in Ipswich, but less than 30 minutes later was frogmarched out by a sergeant and a constable.

Afterwards an unruffled Mr Robertson, of Wigmore Close, Ipswich, said: "The bobbies were very nice chaps. It was all very amicable between me and them and I have no intention of flouting their authority."

But the company is appealing against the tribunal ruling. Mr Michael Aulds, for the company, said that there had been a breakdown in the

mutual trust and confidence between it and Mr Robertson. "We were perfectly within our rights to ask him to leave the building."

Mr Robertson claims that he had been thrown out for informing the Inland Revenue about "usual re-insurance transactions" by the company.



Mr Robertson yesterday: "Livelihood destroyed."

He said: "The inquiry branch of the Inland Revenue are now investigating the matter and I am helping them."

Mr Aulds confirmed that the Inland Revenue was conducting the investigations and said that the company was co-operating. "Mr Robertson was not dismissed for any reason in connection with this investigation."

Mr Robertson said: "As soon as I have recovered from the shock of not being reinstated I will write to the industrial tribunal to tell them that I have been refused my job."

"I will also consult a solicitor with a view to taking GRE to the High Court and seeking substantial damages." He said these should run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

"As GRE will not reinstate me my livelihood has been destroyed. At over 49 it will be impossible for me to obtain a job similar to the highly specialist and well paid one I had with GRE. Most certainly I have done nothing to deserve such a fate."

### Skin cancer danger for sunbathers

Potentially fatal skin cancer caused by over-exposure to the sun has become the most common form of cancer in Australia and represents a "crucial" public health problem, according to researchers.

A huge campaign to change people's sunbathing habits is needed to reduce the growing toll of deaths and injuries from the condition, doctors say in the latest issue of the *British Medical Journal*.

Australia has the world's highest incidence of non-melanocytic skin cancer, with more than 200 deaths a year from the condition. Another 140,000 people a year are treated for it.

The cancer most often affects the head and neck, but the desire by sunbathers to get an "all over" tan is causing it to attack other parts.

The researchers, from the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria have calculated that the condition is three times more common in Australia than in the United States and up to 20 times more common than in Britain.

### Public health doctors weak on disease control

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Britain's public health doctors have only limited expertise and skills in controlling communicable diseases, according to health policy analysts.

A survey conducted by The King's Fund Institute, an independent "think tank", shows that one in five community physicians has no specific experience of communicable disease control, even though they have traditionally been responsible for controlling outbreaks of illnesses such as meningitis and Legionnaire's disease.

A quarter of those professionals give the task a low priority in their present jobs, but two-thirds consider that it should be an important responsibility for the specialty as a whole.

In a report published today, the institute urges Sir Donald Acheson, the Government's chief medical officer, to re-establish public confidence.

Sir Donald has been chairman since 1986 of a committee examining the role of

public health doctors and its report is expected this month. Concern about disease control measures reached a peak in 1984 when 19 people died in an outbreak of food poisoning at Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

Today's report says that community physicians face a "crisis of confidence", and adds: "The status and identity of community medicine has suffered from reorganizations in the health service and from confusion about what the key responsibilities of the specialty are."

The report recommends that there should be greater collaboration between health and local authorities to promote public health and that community physicians should receive better training. It suggests that physicians could opt for more formal specialization.

*Community Medicine and the NHS in England, A Survey Report: King's Fund Institute 126 Albert Street, London NW1 (£4.95).*

### Employers urged to fight stress

British firms were yesterday advised to employ stress counsellors to combat ill-health, death and disease which cost billions of pounds a year in lost productivity.

Professor Cary Cooper told a conference in Manchester that stress could be combated by giving more employees more of a say in the workplace.

Since counsellors were introduced among Post Office workers, the number of stress-related problems had fallen dramatically, he said.

Professor Cooper said management should be less autocratic and "reward rather than punish".

Stress was not a trendy

American concept, but every year was estimated to cost Britain between 5 per cent and 10 per cent of its gross national product - "billions of pounds".

Speaking at the first day of the annual three-day conference of the British Psychological Society, at Manchester University, Professor Cooper said that stress manifested itself in three main ways: alcoholism, heart disease and mental illness. Diet and lifestyle were also leading factors.

In the UK, heart disease was increasing by 10 per cent per decade, although it was not always stress-linked. Britain was about to head the world league table for heart deaths.

Professor Cooper, from Los Angeles, is head of organizational psychology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology and heads one of the largest occupational stress teams in the world.

He said his team was researching stress with Post Office workers in Manchester and Leeds and was using stress counsellors - psychologists available to all staff from the shop floor to the chairman.

Preliminary results showed a massive decline in stress-related problems after counsellors were introduced. But, but added: "Stress is still a four-letter word as far as most organizations are concerned."

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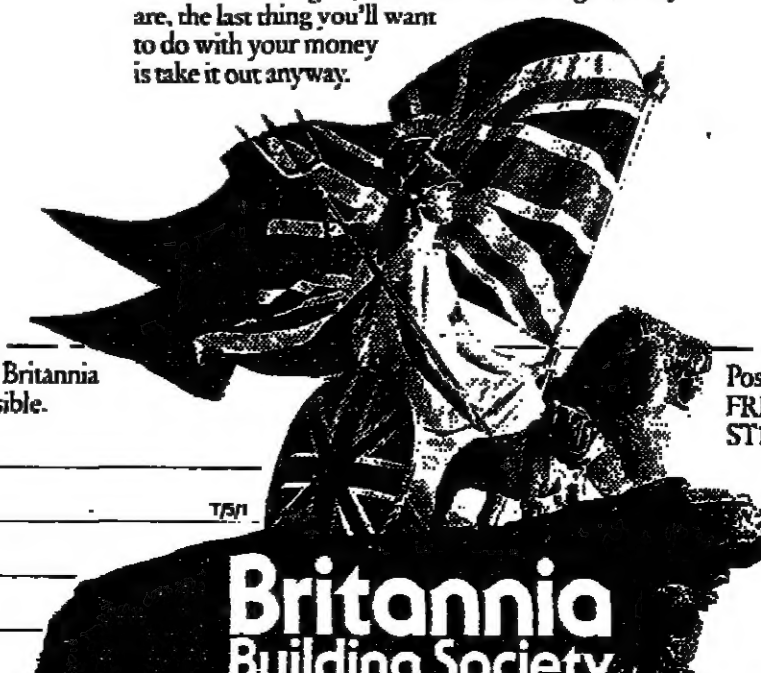
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# Big house price increases on way out, says Woolwich

By Christopher Warran,  
Property Correspondent

The Woolwich Building Society said yesterday that this year could be the last year of excessive house price increases as the growth of real disposable income begins to fall.

The society said that there was plenty of mortgage money about to help buyers, but that during the year there would be a slowing of house price increases.

In London and the South-east the increase may be 20 per cent, although flatten-

ing out at the top end of the market, the society said.

The North is "more buoyant" while the London commuter belt is stretching further to the Cotswolds and East Midlands, thus narrowing the price gap between those areas and London.

The Halifax expects average price increases throughout the country of 15 per cent while the Abbey National predicts an increase of 8 to 10 per cent.

Nationwide Anglia estimates a general increase at 10 to 12 per cent, with a rise of

about 15 per cent in the South-east.

The Halifax said it expected a 15 per cent general rise in prices, the same as last year, because inflation was expected to be below 5 per cent, incomes would rise by more and because of likely reductions in income tax and interest rates.

Mr Bill Dennis, a house price statistician with the Abbey National, said that overall the increase would be slower than last year, particularly in the South-east.

"We are getting to the situation where prices are

getting so high that they are beginning to choke off demand, especially among first-time buyers."

He saw no reason why prices in the South-east should increase in 1988 faster than for the rest of the country, and put the increase at 8 to 10 per cent.

Houses are likely to increase more, however, in areas which are coming into the commuter belt to London, he said. These include places such as Milton Keynes and Peterborough, and areas in the south Midlands and even north Norfolk, which could outperform the rest.

Nationwide Anglia sees a slowing in house prices because of the increasing ratio between house prices and income.

The society believes that in the South-east prices may increase by 15 per cent this year, considerably down on last year's 20 to 25 per cent, while incomes catch up with the past increase in house prices.

"We are not looking to a huge swing in price increases as happened in the 1970s, but to a slowing down."

During the 1970s the ratio of prices to income went down

to 1.2 in 1982, since when it had been steadily increasing.

Prudential Property Services, part of the Prudential Assurance Group, predicts increases of at least 10 per cent in the South-east.

Mr Mike Beer, regional financial services director, said: "We see it as a very good time to buy, because purchasers will be able to benefit from the low interest rates. And with the property prices rising they will see the home they buy increase considerably in value."

"There has been a great deal of publicity from companies

that say house prices will stagnate or even fall because of the stock market crash in the autumn, but there is no sign of that in the South-east."

Government plans to encourage more private rented housing will lead to a "regional landlords' charter", the Scottish Council for Single Homeless said yesterday.

The council describes the idea of negotiated rents as ludicrous and says it would lead to a "take it or leave it" attitude from landlords as there would inevitably be a shortage of accommodation for single people.

## 20,000 TV licence dodgers are caught

By Stewart Tindler  
Crime Reporter

Post Office investigators searching for television licence evaders began a sweep of London and East Anglia yesterday as part of a national campaign which has already caught 20,000 since the autumn.

The Post Office says its detection rate so far has increased to 20,000 compared with 14,500 in the same period of 1986. More than £1 million extra has been collected from the sale of licences.

Overall in 1987, 258,000 people were caught without a licence. This was a 14 per cent drop on 1986 figures and the decline is partly attributed to the success of anti-evasion efforts such as the current campaign. A record 19 million households now have licences generating over £1 billion in licence revenue.

The investigators use a fleet of detector vans and computerized records. They will spend a month in the capital and the eastern counties before moving into southern England and finish in the Midlands in March.

The campaign is part of a long-term battle with evaders by the Post Office which has set up 57 licence inquiry offices staffed by 800 investigators.

The maximum fine for not having a licence is £400. The licence fees are shortly to rise from £38 to £62.50 for colour and from £18 to £21 for black and white.

## Hotel charge

James Bray, aged 46, an American commodity broker, was remanded for a week at Bow Street Magistrates' Court in central London yesterday, accused of defrauding the Green Park Hotel of £6,800 by saying his company would pay his bill.

## Crash charge

Mrs Shirley Rowett, aged 33, a level crossing keeper, of Buntingford, near Wickhampton, Lincolnshire, was accused at Market Rasen Magistrates' Court yesterday of negligence after a train hit a caravan last June. The case was adjourned for 14 days.

## Home soon

Chelsea Renton, aged 22, who suffered severe burns in an accident during a charity expedition across Algeria, is expected to return home soon from the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, West Sussex. She is the daughter of Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Home Office.

## Hidden crime

A woman who tried to smuggle cannabis oil worth nearly £2,000 in condoms taped in her underwear, was yesterday jailed for two years at Leicester Crown Court. Pauline Drysdale, aged 24, of Leamington Spa, admitted bringing the drug through East Midlands airport.

## Death charge

An unemployed youth aged 16 was yesterday remanded in custody for a week by magistrates at Tredgar, Gwent, South Wales, charged with the murder of Mrs Edna Roberts, aged 81, who was found, apparently overcome by smoke, in her home on Saturday.

## Driver jailed

A trainee teacher, Richard Graham, aged 24, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, was yesterday jailed for 18 months and banned from driving for five years at York Crown Court. He had admitted causing the death by reckless driving of three passengers in a car he took after a party.

## Liver boy dies

Paul Murphy, Britain's youngest liver transplant patient, died at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, on Sunday. He was 15 weeks old at the time of the five-and-a-half-hour operation 10 days earlier.

## Deportation for jailed child sex ring leader

Swiss police are standing by to arrest the organizer of an international child pornography ring who was yesterday jailed in Leeds for sexual offences against two young brothers and their friend aged 13.

Judge Raymond Dean, QC, gave Beat Meier, aged 41, the minimum sentence and recommended his deportation at the earliest opportunity. Meier, from Zurich, a self-appointed paedophile counsellor and the editor of *Libido*, a child sex magazine, was jailed for 18 months after admitting five charges of indecent assault and gross indecency and one of taking indecent photographs.

"Your continued presence in the United Kingdom would represent a serious threat to the safety and welfare of our children. This country will be well rid of you as soon as possible", Judge Dean said at Leeds Crown Court.

A warrant for the arrest of Meier has already been taken out by police in Switzerland where he will be charged with serious sexual offences against 12 boys and one baby in Switzerland and other countries.

As Meier has already been in custody for 12 months his extradition, under police guard, is likely to take place within weeks.

Judge Dean said it was essential that Meier faced trial in Switzerland as soon as possible on disturbing, major and grave charges which were outside the jurisdiction of British courts. Although serious, offences committed against the three youngsters from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, paled into relative insignificance when compared with those crimes allegedly committed by Meier in other countries.

"Judges are frequently criticized, especially by the media, for being too lenient to sex offenders. I am imposing the shortest possible term of imprisonment because it seems to me of the first importance that

you be tried in Switzerland as soon as possible", Judge Dean told Meier.

Mr Robert Smith, QC, for the prosecution, said Meier first met one of the brothers while the child sat in his father's long-distance lorry in a Dover ferry terminal car park. Meier wrote letters to the parents and visited their home.

Winning over the parents' trust, he persuaded them to allow him to take the boy aged 12 to Switzerland on holiday. During the first visit no offence was committed, but the following year both brothers were taken to Zurich and on that occasion offences did take place.

The brothers' friend became involved when Meier made one of his numerous visits to England and was allowed by the parents to take the children for short signing visits which involved overnight hotel accommodation. All three children were abused.

The crimes came to light after Meier wrote a letter to the brothers' school teacher explaining their absence from class by claiming they had helped to look for his mislaid passport. Unconvinced by the letter, the teacher questioned both boys and as a result contacted the police.

Meier was arrested by a suspicious immigration officer at Dover ferry terminal, who stopped the car in which he was travelling with a boy aged three.

Elders of the Jehovah's Witnesses protected a man although they knew he was sexually abusing his daughters, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday. Judge Lyberty said their "astonishing" decision led to him committing more crimes which could have been prevented.

The man aged 56, a market trader from north-west London, was jailed for 30 months after he admitted persistent indecent assaults on his two daughters, now aged 25 and 17.

## Sir Robin opens door on a new career



Sir Robin Butler at the door of the Cabinet Office, where he will work as Head of the Home Civil Service. Sir Robin took up his new appointment, in succession to Sir Robert Armstrong, the day after his fiftieth birthday and just after receiving a knighthood in the New Year Honours List. He had been second permanent secretary, public

expenditure department, for three years and before that private secretary to three Prime Ministers, Mr Edward Heath, Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, and Mrs Margaret Thatcher. He attended Harrow and University College, Oxford, where he took a double first in Mods and Greats, and joined the Treasury in

1961. He was appointed private secretary to Mr Niall Macdonald, who was Financial Secretary to the Treasury from 1964 until 1967, and was later secretary to the Budget Committee before being seconded to the Bank of England and other City institutions for a number of years. He returned to the Treasury and in 1988

became Principal Establishment and Finance Officer. Sir Robin is married with three children. He is a keen sportsman, gaining a blue for rugby and still playing occasionally for the Mandarins cricket team which he founded in Whitehall in 1964. He also enjoys sailing, squash and golf as well as opera. (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

## Bullion man to be extradited

By Stewart Tindler  
Crime Reporter

A bullion dealer, who left Britain with debts of £13.6 million, is to be extradited from Uruguay to face 52 charges of theft and deception involving £1.5 million.

Two detectives from the West Yorkshire fraud squad are to fly to Montevideo in the next few days to escort Mr Harvey Ross, aged 38, back to Britain.

West Yorkshire police announced said yesterday that they had been told through Interpol that the legal authorities in Montevideo have decided Mr Ross should be sent back. The decision makes him the first British subject ever extradited under the 1884 treaty between Britain and the South American country.

Mr Ross traded in bullion, coins and commodities as Harvey Michael Investments based in Leeds offices. He was adjudged bankrupt in his absence in June 1986. A creditors' meeting the next month was told his debts were more than £13.6 million.

More than 1,000 private investors are owed £6 million of that sum. Investigators believe that if other creditors declared undisclosed investments, the total could be nearer £20 million.

The former dealer, from Alwoodley, Leeds, has fought extradition since his arrest at an Montevideo hotel last June. The decision that he must leave was taken by five Supreme Court judges who upheld two earlier rulings.

## Pay strikes dropped Teachers will rally pupils

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

Teachers' unions have ruled out strikes as a weapon against the Education Reform Bill which will reach the committee stage in Parliament in the coming session.

But the unions are to involve their pupils in a "rally for education" at the Albert Hall in London next month and will hold mass rallies at Parliament.

Union leaders have come under pressure from their members to avoid calling more strikes which would alienate not only parents but also the remaining moderate members of the two larger unions, the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

The NAS/UNT recently expelled about 500 members for refusing to take part in official strikes over pay. Its

membership fell by 3,000 between 1985 and 1986, almost entirely because of the unpopularity of school strikes.

The NUT, responding to reaction from members, has decided not to expel non-striking. Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary, said yesterday it was "generally accepted" that industrial action was the wrong weapon against the Education Reform Bill, which many teachers regard as over-centralized and statist.

But Mr Jarvis said, teachers will conduct a parliamentary lobby and school-level campaign aimed at turning parents against the Bill's "most controversial proposals".

Calling the Bill "the most serious threat to the education service in decades" and accusing Mrs Margaret Thatcher of lies over the sums spent by her government on education, Mr Jarvis said: "The Govern-

ment wants higher standards but fails to provide the resources in the schools to achieve higher standards."

The French education ministry recently announced an extra £2.5 billion for education and a 10 per cent pay increase for the teaching profession.

The teachers' campaign will include a rally, including music by groups who performed at the Schools Prom last year, at the Albert Hall on February 26 and parliamentary rallies at Central Hall, Westminster, on January 28 and March 1 in conjunction with other local government unions.

At the top of the teachers' agenda is their demand for a better pay offer than the 4.5 per cent expected from the Government in April and the restoration of collective bargaining.

## Doubts on fire code for furniture

The deaths of three young sisters in a fire at their home in Leigh, Greater Manchester, has rekindled arguments over the Government's long-awaited regulations for new fire safety standards in furniture.

Mr Bob Graham, assistant chief fire officer in Greater Manchester, said yesterday that he did not believe the statutory code of practice likely to be adopted by the Government would materially lessen the risk of fires such as that in which Liza and Lindsay Molyneux, aged four, and their sister, Adele, aged

five months, died on Sunday.

He said: "Our research in Manchester shows that half the fatal fires in the home become so because of the involvement of furniture foam."

"Since the introduction of polyurethane foam in furniture manufacture, the number of fire deaths attributable to upholstery becoming ignited has increased fivefold."

Flammable covers and foam fillings are capable of producing dense, toxic smoke and flash fires with gases at 1000C within minutes of becoming ignited.

Mr Graham said that he feared the new regulations would not bring much improvement.

"They will still permit the use of covers which can be ignited by a dropped match and of foams that could have worse consequences."

The Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday that 150 submissions received in response to the consultative document were still being considered.

A Home Office spokesman said last night that of 957 fire deaths in 1986 753 occurred in homes.

## 41% wage rise sought on farms

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

A claim for a 41 per cent pay rise for farmworkers and a cut in the working week from 40 to 35 hours will be submitted to the Agricultural Wages Board in March.

The Transport and General Workers' Union is seeking a minimum adult wage of £140, compared with the present £99.20, as part of its long standing but so far unsuccessful claim for parity with average industrial earnings.

Mr Barry Leathwood, national secretary of the union's agricultural section, says more farmworkers are forced to rely on social security than employees in any other industry. Latest figures show that the number living below the poverty line has doubled in the past seven years.

The plight of farmworkers is attracting increasing concern as part of the wider issue of rural poverty. Soaring property prices, as affluent commuters move into villages and country towns, are creating social problems which observers feel could soon rival those of the inner cities.

But although there may be considerable sympathy for the workers' claim, it has to be seen against a sharp decline in farm incomes. According to the National Farmers' Union, these are at their lowest level in real terms since the end of the Second World War, and many farmers are laying off workers they can no longer afford to pay.

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## Scottish tourism Islands seek key to success

By Kerry Gill

Visitors to two of the Western Isles, Islay and Jura, are to be asked what they like about them in a move to improve facilities and increase tourism.

The survey, which begins this month, is intended to reach the bulk of the several thousand people who visit Islay and Jura each year. It is sponsored by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Countryside Commission for Scotland, the Nature Conservancy Council and the Highlands and Islands Development Board.

Islay, in particular, has been the centre of controversy during the past 18 months because of arguments over the conservation of peatland, the protection of its huge colonies of wintering geese and de-

mands from many locals that the island's economy should be boosted.

The economy is based on farming, tourism and making whisky, but the decline in the whisky industry in recent years is making Islay and Jura increasingly reliant on tourism.

Mr David Minns, the RSPB's senior conservation officer for Scotland, said that interviews would be conducted on ferries and questionnaires would be handed to people arriving at Islay's airport.

"This will continue throughout the year, as it is important we get the spread of visitors to Islay. People don't just come during the normal tourist season, many come specifically to see wildlife off season."

"We will ask them why they have come, and find out what they liked."

The survey, commissioned by Argyll and Bute District Council, will assess the potential for development, such as opening tourism information and interpretation centres, which could bring a significant number of jobs.

"The islands have a lot of scope for development. We have always said there are many opportunities for wildlife-related tourism that are not being suitably developed", Mr Minns said.

He said it was important to discover why people came to Islay all the way from southern England. The cost, after all, would be similar to a holiday in Majorca.



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## WORLD ROUNDUP

## Malaria strikes Pretoria troops

Johannesburg — An outbreak of malaria in South Africa among soldiers returning from Angola is alarming the authorities. Thousands of civilians also appear to be affected (Ray Kennedy writes).

Six soldiers have died from the disease and 96 more are being treated in military hospitals and sick bays in South Africa and Namibia.

According to newspaper reports in Johannesburg, the troops in Angola had been exposed to a virulent form of malaria because of the breakdown in health and hygiene services in the war-ravaged country. The situation has been worsened by the soldiers' reluctance to take military-issue anti-malaria pills. Military headquarters said the troops mistakenly believed that taking the pills would affect their sunbaths.

## Criminals are shot

Peking (AP) — At a mass rally in Shenyang, capital of north-east China's Liaoning province, 17 people convicted on Christmas Day of various crimes were sent immediately to be shot in one of the largest reported group executions of recent years, according to a report here yesterday.

The 17 were convicted of crimes ranging from murder and rape to robbery. The rally was reported by a provincial radio station monitored by the BBC.

## Minister's boycott

Sydney — The Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Mr Gerry Hand, bowing to Aboriginal sensitivities, will boycott all official ceremonies to mark Australia's bicentenary (Keith Dalton writes).

"I think the Aboriginal people have little or nothing to celebrate during 1988," Mr Hand said yesterday.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, defended Mr Hand who, he said, was trying to create a new relationship with Aborigines.

## Navy strength cut

Britain is to cut back its naval presence in Hong Kong with the withdrawal of two patrol craft and the disbandment of a special Royal Marines squadron (Michael Evans writes). But military sources in London denied that the reductions were connected with any policy to run down British force levels prior to the 1997 handover of the colony to China.

The two patrol craft are part of the five-vessel Hong Kong Squadron which was set up in 1941. Both will be withdrawn by the middle of this year. The three remaining craft are expected to remain on duty nearer the 1997 deadline.

## Bahrain arrests

Bahrain (Reuters) — Bahraini authorities said yesterday that they had uncovered a cell "aimed at undermining economic installations".

The Ministry of the Interior said three Bahrainis had been arrested and several unspecified "catches" had been found. The case was being prepared for trial.

Diplomatic sources said last week that three Bahrainis had been arrested in connection with an oil refinery sabotage plot.

## Isolation ended

President Waldheim of Austria has been invited to visit two Western countries, effectively ending his two-year isolation by governments after accusations about his wartime activities in the German army (Nicholas Beeson writes). "Two Western countries have invited him," said an Austrian source who refused to identify the governments concerned. Another official said that possible state visits to other countries were being discussed.

## Salieri requiem find

Prague (Reuters) — The Moravian museum in Brno has discovered 10 manuscript scores by the Italian composer Antonio Salieri, who is believed by some people to have murdered Mozart, his bitter rival.

The scores, which include a requiem, three operas, an oratorio, cantatas, choruses and a singpiel, were part of a collection owned by Count Heinrich Hatzgitz, a close friend of Salieri's when he was a court composer in Vienna.

## Expatriate exodus likely as Saudis revive tax

By Nicholas Beeson

Thousands of British expatriates earning high salaries in Saudi Arabia are expected to quit their jobs and leave the country after the kingdom announced it was reimposing taxes on foreign companies and workers after a 12-year suspension.

Observers said that the move was intended primarily to raise revenues, but was also part of a "Saudiization" campaign to reduce the country's dependence on Western experts and replace them with Saudis.

The full effect of the new taxation took most of the estimated four million foreigners in Saudi Arabia by surprise. The taxes take effect on January 21 and were imposed by

royal decree as part of a new year austerity package announced in last week's budget. The kingdom hopes to raise £250 million from the new levies.

Income tax will be levied on foreign workers on a sliding scale ranging from 5 to 30 per cent. Corporate tax is also to be put into operation ranging from 25 per cent to 45 per cent depending on profit levels.

The vast majority of the 25,000 expatriate Britons in Saudi Arabia earn more than £9,337 a year and will therefore fall into the highest bracket.

"There are very few Britons who earn less than £10,000, so some of them will be getting taxed here more

than they would in Britain," said one diplomat in Riyadh. "For many the only reason they are in Saudi Arabia is the money, so quite a few will leave."

The latest tax blow follows a gradual chipping away at expatriate earnings which began with reductions in allowances and benefits and was recently followed by indirect taxation in the form of import duty — just raised to 12½ per cent on all goods.

The fall in the value of the US dollar has also contributed to the demise in expatriate incomes. Foreign employees are generally paid in dollar-linked salaries and the British expatriate has seen his salary re-

duced substantially over the past few years.

Accountants and companies who were bombarded with calls from anxious employees advised them not to panic and quit their jobs, but emphasized that in many instances state and public sector employers might compensate foreign workers for lost income.

British Aerospace, the largest British expatriate concern with 2,000 Britons working in Saudi Arabia, said that it was "still taking stock" of the tax announcement and would be able to assess the impact only when accountants had been through the decree.

In the heyday of the Gulf oil boom of the 1970s, hundreds of thousands

of foreign workers were lured to Saudi Arabia for lucrative contracts in construction, defence, training and health, but over the past five years falling oil prices and over-spending has forced Riyadh to cut back.

Increasingly, Western experts have been replaced by cheaper labour from the Philippines, South Korea and the Indian subcontinent, and by Saudis themselves.

Saudis will not have to pay the income tax because such a move would be highly unpopular politically. There is already growing dissatisfaction with the Government's apparent inability to deal with a considerable unemployment problem.

## Anxiety over Thatcher's Nigeria visit increasing

From Robin Oakley, Nairobi

Mrs Margaret Thatcher arrived in Nairobi yesterday for a colourful Kenyan welcome, but with worries increasing over the second stage of her African trip, a visit to Nigeria.

The Prime Minister flew into Kenya's airport to a greeting from President Moi and several thousand Kenyans, including groups of brightly-dressed dancers blowing whistles.

She spent a free evening before today's packed programme of visits to schools, tea farms and aid projects, culminating with her speech at a state banquet tonight.

Mrs Thatcher was anxious to visit Kenya before a CBI conference next month on investment in East Africa. She has confessed to feeling guilt that she has not been before to a country she considers one of Africa's success stories because of its emphasis on education, smallholdings and free enterprise.

She believes that British industrialists have confidence in Kenya's future and is keen to promote next month's conference. Kenya has received £173 million aid from Britain since 1979 and an agreement for £50 million more was signed during President Moi's visit to Britain last year.

In an interview with the Central Office of Information, Mrs Thatcher stressed her belief that aid should not go just to the poorest countries but to those which are tackling their problems effectively because they make better use of aid.

## Words of anger across Gaza divide



An angry confrontation in the Jabalya refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip yesterday when Palestinian women argued with an armed Israeli soldier who ordered them away from the entrance to a military area inside the camp. The women were protesting against the arrest earlier of several youths and asking for permission to enter the military area.

## Reagan returns to economic worries

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan, back from his holiday in California, yesterday began a series of briefings on his new budget, the State of the Union message, and plans for travel abroad later this year.

He was briefed by Mr James Miller, his Budget Director, on the new budget for the 1989 fiscal year. This comes barely six weeks after he finally signed the 1988 budget bill, delayed by protracted wrangling over attempts to reduce the federal deficit.

The White House has hinted that the new budget will be much less contentious. Trade and economic issues

will also dominate Mr Reagan's agenda for the next few days. The White House said he would receive a report on Friday on the stock market from the commission he set up, headed by the financier, Mr Nicholas Brady, after the Wall Street crash on October 19 last year.

The President plans to sign into law this week a \$4 billion (£2.1 billion) rescue of the farm credit. And he has arranged an extraordinary series of meetings between the National Security Council and the Economic Policy Council to review troubled US-Japanese relations before the first visit

here next week by Mr Noboru Takeshita, the new Japanese Prime Minister. Mr Reagan will maintain strong pressure on Tokyo to reduce its huge trade surplus with the US.

Mr Reagan is also about to launch a strong lobbying drive to get Senate ratification of the intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty he signed with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev last month. Senate hearings on this began later this month.

He is expected to dwell on the treaty, a bright spot in the sombre final days of his presidency, in his State of the Union message to Congress on January 25. He will outline

the prospects for his fourth summit meeting, in Moscow, and hopes for achieving a strategic arms agreement.

Mr Reagan is also planning to go to Cancun in Mexico next month for an annual meeting with President de la Madrid. And he will meet Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister, shortly after that. The two men will review the contentious free-trade agreement they signed on Saturday.

After his Moscow visit in late May or early June, Mr Reagan will attend the seven-nation economic summit in Toronto in June.

## Hurd talks on drugs and terrorism

## Growing British interest in Maghreb

By Susan MacDonald

While Mrs Thatcher is visiting black Africa this week, the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, is in North Africa visiting Tunisia and Morocco. Although his visit is described as mainly dealing with the twin problems of drugs and terrorism, it demonstrates an increased British interest in the Maghreb.

It is difficult to imagine how Mr Hurd can tackle the problem of international terrorism without also talking to the Algerians, who have played an active role in mediating in the Middle East.

Mr Hurd's trip to Tunisia comes as the new head of state, President Zine ben Ali, is changing the repressive regime of the former president, Mr Habib Bourguiba, and increasing Tunisia's international profile, especially in the age-old dream of Maghreb unity. The decision last month to renew diplomatic ties with Libya after a two-year break is a large step in this direction, and one in which, once again, Algeria is playing a leading role.

Libya's expulsion two years ago of more than 30,000 Tunisian workers led to the

breaking of diplomatic ties by President Bourguiba. His deep suspicion of Colonel Gaddafi was founded on an extremely short-lived treaty of unity between the two countries in 1974 and riots in the southern city of Gafsa in 1980, which appeared to have been caused by a Libyan-backed commando force.

Since the expulsion of the 30,000 workers, Tunisia has been seeking compensation of £10 million. That a part of this has now been paid and the rest promised soon by Libya is a result not only of Tunisian persistence but also

of Algerian diplomacy and Colonel Gaddafi's present need for friends.

Algeria knows that Maghreb unity cannot be achieved without including Libya, and during 1987 has come to feel that, despite the difficulties, an unpredictable Libya on the inside is better than a troublesome Libya isolated on the outside.

Libya, for its part, has suffered from the effects of the US bombing of Tripoli, debts in Chad and economic difficulties at home aggravated by a fall in oil prices.

Colonel Gaddafi has perhaps been convinced by President Chadi of Algeria that the days of his rushing into neighbouring countries and declaring instant unions are over.

Algeria and Libya have held discussions throughout last year and signed co-operation agreements in several areas of the economy. However, Algeria did not want this new-found closeness to take place over the head of Tunisia.

President Chadi visited a reluctant President Bourguiba to try to convince him of the necessity of closer Libyan relations.

Despite pressure from Algeria, Tunisia is still reluctant to give its consent. As the Tunisian Foreign Minister, Mr Mahmoud Mestiri, explained, the treaty is a pact of non-aggression and therefore there must be assurances from Colonel Gaddafi that he will respect all the clauses.

Another reason for reticence is that Tunisia does not want it to appear that Morocco is being left out in the cold. The great stumbling block to Maghreb unity now is the country between Morocco and Algeria over the way in the Western Sahara. But discreet diplomatic moves are afoot, and the Algerian Foreign Minister, Mr Taleb Ibrahim, could well pay a visit to Rabat.

The normalization process was accelerated once President Zine ben Ali replaced President Bourguiba in November, an event which Colonel Gaddafi was quick to support. Now that diplomatic relations have been renewed between the two countries, a next step would be to allow Libya to join the 1983 treaty between Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania.

Mr Hurd's timely visit to Tunisia.

been seeking compensation of £10 million. That a part of this has now been paid and the rest promised soon by Libya is a result not only of Tunisian persistence but also

## Onslaught on Dubcek renewed

Prague (AP) — Czechoslovakia's Communist Party daily newspaper yesterday marked the 20th anniversary yesterday of Mr Alexander Dubcek's being ousted by party leaders by blaming him for letting reform get out of control.

It also said that assertions that the "Prague Spring" reforms, which were introduced when Mr Dubcek became leader in January 1968, could be compared to Mr Gorbachev's present reforms in the Soviet Union were a "gross, blatant and transparent lie".

The newspaper, *Rude Pravo*, added: "The leaders of the Czechoslovak rightists wanted a dismantling of socialism, a development for which there is no better name than counter-revolutionary development."

"The programme of restructuring in the Soviet Union, here and in other socialist countries is development of socialism, of socialist democracy."

Mr Dubcek was officially replaced by Mr Gustav Husak in April 1969; the Soviet Union had led Warsaw Pact tanks and troops into Czechoslovakia in August 1968 to quash Mr Dubcek's reforms.

The former leader was expelled from the Communist Party in June 1970 and almost half a million party members deemed to have supported his policies were also purged.

Sources in Prague said on Sunday that Mr Dubcek is ill with pneumonia at his home in the Slovak capital of Bratislava, where he is now a pensioner.

*Rude Pravo* said the choice of Mr Dubcek as party leader in 1968 "was the result of compromise, was influenced by the tense relations within the party and the wish to achieve unity".

But the leadership which emerged was "heterogeneous, dissiminated and weak".

The newspaper added that Mr Dubcek "bears personal responsibility" for subsequent developments. He "first made unprincipled concessions to the right-wing forces and later became their hostage because of his lack of principles and defeatism".

## White House runners pick up their campaign cash

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The eleventh day of Christmas brought riches to 12 presidential candidates yesterday, as the Federal Government handed out the first batch of matching election funds to all except the Rev Jesse Jackson, who has not yet completed the paperwork to qualify.

The Treasury handed over a total of \$25.6 million (£13.6 million) and later in the week will distribute another \$3.1 million, making this easily the best weeks for fund-raising any of the candidates has had.

Money is handed over according to how much individual candidates have already raised. Vice-President George Bush, with the biggest campaign chest, got easily the most — some \$4.8 million yesterday — with a further \$900,000 coming later in the week.

The Rev Pat Robertson, the television evangelist who has used his old skills to raise a large sum from dedicated supporters, got the second largest amount — \$4.495 million, closely followed by Senator Robert Dole with \$4.338 million.

Congressman Jack Kemp, who has borrowed heavily for

his campaign against his first instalment of public funds, received just over \$3 million, but much of this has to pay back his debts.

The Democrats received far less, with the most — \$2.402 million — going to Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts. Most of the others received between \$1 million and \$1.7 million, except Mr Jackson and Mr Gary Hart.

Mr Hart, who re-entered the race only last month, was entitled to \$100,000, based on the funds he had raised before he withdrew last May. His campaign managers want to spend all the money on his renewed race for the 1988 Democratic nominations.

But he still has debts of more than \$1 million from his 1984 campaign, and angry creditors are determined to get the courts to insist that they be paid back first. Some observers have suggested that the receipt of federal matching funds was a main reason Mr Hart re-entered the race.

The system of matching government funds was instituted after the Watergate scandal in the 1970s in an attempt to lessen the influence

of fund-raising in election campaigns and force candidates to declare where their money came from.

To qualify, presidential candidates must raise at least \$5,000 in individual contributions of \$250 or less in at least 20 states. Once eligible, all individual contributions are matched dollar for dollar by Treasury funds raised by a voluntary \$1 levy on personal tax returns.

This year the Federal Election Commission projects that candidates will receive more than \$64 million in the primaries. Candidates are limited to raising about \$22 million this year.

In addition the nominees of each big party will get another \$46.75 million each in public funds to spend for the general election, and the Democratic and Republican parties will receive almost \$9 million each to help stage the conventions.

The paperwork needed to certify that private funds have been properly raised is overwhelming. Mr Robertson's staff had to rent a 16 ft lorry to carry 51 boxes of documentation.

## Killer's plea outrages feminists

From Charles Bremner, New York

After a year of headlines and two months of jury selection, a well-to-do young New Yorker went on trial yesterday for the murder of a teenage girl in a case that combines rough sex, wealth and women's rights.

Dubbed the "preppy murder" or the "yuppie killing", the case of Mr Robert Chambers is also being treated by the press as a parable for the excesses of the 1980s, a story of the aimless cocaine-sniffing teenage culture whose new nihilism is celebrated in a string of best-selling novels.

The facts of the case are simple and uncontested. On August 26, 1986, Mr Chambers, a privately educated college drop-out then aged 19, went drinking in Dorrian's Red Hand, a chic Upper East Side bar that has done well from its notoriety. Mr Chambers was a cocaine user who was suspected of burglary.

He left the bar with Miss Jennifer Levin, aged 18, the daughter of a well-off Manhattan family. She was found strangled the next morning in nearby Central Park.

Mr Chambers admitted to the police that he had killed Miss Levin, but he insisted the act had been accidental, according to written and taped statements released before the trial.

He claimed that she was attempting to have "rough sex" with him against his will, and that he had fended her off with pressure to her neck.

Though the defence lawyers have yet to reveal their tactics, the argument that Mr Chambers was only resisting what amounted to a rape attempt by a woman has infuriated women's rights groups and organizations for victims' rights.

They believe that Mr Chambers's lawyer, Mr Jack Litman, a celebrated criminal lawyer, should not be allowed to cite evidence of Miss Levin's sexual past to support the rape claim.

They are also angry at the two-month interrogation of prospective jurors, during which defence lawyers were reported to have asked about attitudes to sex and the idea of a woman raping a man.

The prosecutor, Miss Linda Fairstein, won a victory when the trial opened in a packed courtroom in Lower Manhattan. The judge ruled that Mr Litman should not play a video-tape of Mr Chambers's sensational confession to the police as part of his opening statement.

The Levin family, backed by the women's and victims' groups, attacked Mr Litman at the weekend for "trashy" the reputation of their daughter for the sake of building a defence.

Several famous crime victims who have suffered at the hands of aggressive defence lawyers attended the opening session to demonstrate their support for the Levin family.

Among them was Miss Maria Hanson, a model, who received an apology from a judge last year after she was humiliated in the trial of two men accused of slashing her face with a razor.

Defence lawyers brought up her sexual history as mitigation, but their clients were sentenced to long prison terms.

The trial of Mr Chambers is expected to last for up to two months.

## Editors sent to special jails

By Caroline Moorehead

Huseyin Uger, Erhan Tuskan and Feyzullah Ozer are three among a considerable number of journalists and editors held in Turkish prisons since the late 1970s and early 1980s on charges of "making Communist propaganda" and "insulting the authorities".

Uger, director of *Genç Sosyalist*, and Ozer, an editor of *Kitle*, a weekly political journal, have sentences of 18 years in jail; Tuskan, editor-in-chief of *Hicri Yurtsever Genclik*, the magazine of the Progressive Youth Association, has been jailed for 48 years and 10 months.

These imprisoned journalists are all working for papers associated with socialist politics or progressive youth organizations, banned at the time of the military coup of September, 1980, together with all other political organizations and groups.

## PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

## Turkey

Not one of them is thought to have been involved in the violent events of the late 1970s and none was accused or convicted of any violent offence.

All three, as well as several of the others, are serving their sentences in one of the special "E-type" prisons for political prisoners in Canakkale.

The number of political prisoners in Turkey is believed to stand at more than 10,000, of which at least 1,000 have been on trial since 1980. They include politicians, writers, academics, Kurds and

trade unionists, many of them held under Article 141 of the Turkish Penal Code which prohibits "membership of illegal organizations".

Two union leaders, Haydar Kutlu, the Secretary-General of the Turkish Communist Party, and Dr Nihat Sargin, the General Secretary of the Turkish Workers' Party, who were arrested when they returned to Turkey for the first time since the 1980 coup to take part in the November elections, are now known to have been tortured in detention.

Child prisoners: In a report published today on child victims of political repression Amnesty International gives details of basic human rights violations against children in 18 countries around the world, and declares January their "month for children" (Alexander Johnson writes).



## Kurdish pamphlet found on body of murdered envoy

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

An unaddressed sealed envelope found in the jacket of the West German diplomat shot dead yesterday remains the only clue for the Paris police.

The pamphlet it contained points to one of the newer and most militant factions among the many which are struggling for the independence of Kurdistan from Turkey, the National Liberation Front of Kurdistan.

According to some sources, the statement from the group attacked Bonn's lack of support for its campaign. It seems, however, that there was no specific claim of responsibility for the shooting of Herr Siegfried Wielspitz, aged 32, a consular official who was married with two young children.

In Paris and Bonn yesterday the authorities would make no comment on the killing. The French-based Comité Kurdistanien denounced the murder as "a provocation against us" by the Turkish secret police.

The front has been nursing a grudge against West Germany since July, when police carried out extensive raids on Kurdish exile circles where the group enjoyed strong support. According to Bonn's federal prosecutor, there were grounds for suspecting the Marxist-inclined organization of having killed several members of rival Kurdish factions.

Spokesmen for the front insist that the West German authorities also seized some £300,000 collected from sympathizers. The group's lawyer

in Cologne, Mr Hussein Yildirim, became the subject of an official investigation after giving a warning that the Kurdish people intended to get that money back "if necessary little by little, by violence if need be".

Activists have since staged a number of peaceful demonstrations in Paris. The Luftwaffe office was briefly occupied, as was that of the West German news agency DPA, where a banner hung from a window accused Bonn of stealing Kurdish funds.

Last month three Kurdish

A caller to the Anatolian News Agency in London yesterday said that the "liberation of Kurdistan" killed Herr Siegfried Wielspitz. The caller said the group had also blown up a West German airliner on Saturday near the Aegean port of Izmir, killing 16. The crash investigator has blamed pilot error for the disaster.

refugees were among the score of anti-Khomeini militants deported from Paris to Gabon after the French Government's hostage deal with Iran.

Paris police have established that Herr Wielspitz dined with a colleague on the Champs Elysees until midnight. Three hours later two young men saw him staggering towards them on a footbridge across the Seine. Herr Wielspitz, who could only gasp before losing consciousness that he had been shot, was dead on arrival at hospital.

As the official mainly responsible for issuing visas for West Germany, it is conceivable that Herr Wielspitz, who had worked in Paris for some 30 months, may have been singled out as a target by disgruntled Kurdish exiles. A relatively junior figure, he would not have been as closely protected as senior diplomats.

He was the eighth foreign diplomat to be murdered in Paris during the past decade.

● BONN: Herr Wielspitz was the sixth West German diplomat to be killed by terrorists or guerrillas in the last 20 years (John England writes).

In May, 1968, the Chargé d'Affaires in Saigon, Freiherr Rüdiger von Collenberg, was shot down on a street in the Chinese quarter, and in March 1970, Karl Graf Sprei, the Ambassador in Guatemala, was kidnapped and murdered five days later when the Guatemalan Government refused to pay a ransom.

The West German Consul in Northern Ireland, Herr Thomas Niedermayer, was killed after being kidnapped in December, 1973, although his body was not found until March, 1980.

Two diplomats at the West German Embassy in Stockholm, Herr Andreas von Mirbach and Herr Heinz Hillegaart, died in April, 1975, when the Red Army Faction took 12 of the staff hostage and blew up the building after Bonn refused their demand to free 26 Baader-Meinhof terrorists who were jailed in West Germany.

## Western Europe braced for wave of guerrilla violence

By Hazhir Telnosorian

Whether the allegation of involvement by the National Liberation Front of Kurdistan in the murder of the West German diplomat in Paris turns out to be true or false, several Western governments expect the desire for independence of some 20 million Middle East Kurds to foster a significant new guerrilla movement.

The leadership of Kurdish nationalists has almost completely passed from traditional tribal chiefs to left-wing activists in the cities. With half the Kurds living in Turkey, and with the West being seen as the main supporter of Ankara, Western Europe is expected to provide the first targets. Access is made easier by the presence of some 200,000 Kurds among the immigrant "guest workers" in West Germany alone.

The front is the European branch of *Parti Krikane Kurdistan* (PKK), the Kurdish Workers' Party, which is blamed by Turkey for the deaths of at least 156 villagers and militiamen in areas

bordering Syria, Iraq and Iran over the past two years. Many of the dead have been the young children of families suspected of taking up arms on behalf of the state, even though the villagers are frequently armed by the Turkish Army against their will.

So brutal have been some of the massacres that the PKK's allies, notably Mr Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Iraq, have threatened to denounce it as a terrorist movement unless it changes its behaviour.

Despite the condemnations the PKK enjoys support among the estimated 10 million Turkish Kurds whose language and culture are banned by the Constitution. Despite the return of partial democracy to Turkey, the Kurdish region is ruled by a military governor, who has been given prior indemnity from prosecution for his actions. Kurds languish in prison without trial for crimes such as possessing love poems in Kurdish. Last year a singer narrowly escaped 28 years'

imprisonment demanded by a state prosecutor because she has sung in Kurdish.

A woman from the city of Diyarbakir said: "We support the PKK because they are the only ones who remained in Kurdistan. Maybe they do make some mistakes, but we shall get our rights through fighting, not words. The intellectuals who used to run the Kurdish movement talked when the situation was calm, but when conditions became difficult, they fled to Europe and spent their time in obscure quarrels."

The PKK is led by Mr Abdullah Ojlan, a former law graduate from Ankara University who became a Marxist while a student. In his mid-forties now, he is thought to spend most of his time in the no-man's-land of Iraqi Kurdistan. Lately his guerrillas have enjoyed some freedom of movement in Iran, where the Government is unhappy with an increasingly pro-Iraqi stance on the part of Turkey. The number of his guerrillas is not known.

## Japanese nearer to superbrain

From David Watts Tokyo

A Japanese electronics firm has developed a computer simulation of a neuro-computer, which functions in a similar way to the human nerve system.

Fujitsu says the development brings closer the day when neuro-computers will be able to reason for themselves and function without software, thus freeing Japanese manufacturers from dependence on superior American software.

The firm says that its simulation can work between 10 and 100 times faster than similar American machines and is capable of reproducing the interactivity of 100,000 brain cells. The human brain contains about 14 billion cells.

When fully developed, the Fujitsu system should be able to control a series of robots.

The computer's most important skill is its ability to teach itself through repetition, which will allow it to develop a behaviour pattern suitable to its environment and learn co-operation and competition.

The simulation will be used to develop a neuro-chip, which will be used to develop a neuro-computer using several million neurons as models, ultimately in the hope of developing a data-processing system similar to the brain.

The strength of the neuro-computer simulation is its ability to interface digital and analogue information. Using large-scale integrated chip technology, the information-processing speed available is expected to be several thousand times faster than the human neuron.

Fujitsu says that the neuro-computer will be able to process vague pieces of information in the way the human brain does.

## Trade unions providing main arena for black resistance

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

With no end in sight to South Africa's 18-month state of emergency and most townships bludgeoned into sullen peace, relations between the black trade unions, white employers and the Government are becoming the main arena for testing black strategies of opposition and resistance.

"Labour relations in South Africa continue to provide a safety valve, a means for organization, protest and the expression of conflict, as well as a vehicle and proving ground for the concepts of negotiation and compromise," a leading Johannesburg management consultancy concluded this month in its survey of the past year.

The number of strikes and work stoppages has risen almost every year since President Botha's Government legalized independent black and multiracial trade unions in 1979, going up from 101 in 1979 to 793 in 1986. Over the same period, the number of man-days lost due to strikes increased from less than 100,000 to more than one million.

Provisional figures for 1987 indicate that there were fewer individual strikes than in 1986, but a dramatic ninefold rise in the number of man-

days lost to more than nine million, far more than in all the previous years put together. This was mainly due to a few strikes lasting from three weeks to three months - notably by black railwaymen, post office employees and miners.

While most of the strikes failed to improve on what was being offered by employers, the overall wage increase of 18 per cent achieved in 1987 by unions under the umbrella of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the main black labour federation, was relatively high, making Cosatu members the only group in the country which kept ahead of the 16 to 17 per cent inflation rate.

This was seen as a victory for Cosatu's "living wage" campaign, and a measure of its members' growing bargaining power. The average white salary increase over the past year was several points lower at 15 to 16 per cent. White pay remains substantially higher than black pay, however.

Despite their obvious potential, black unions are weakened by several factors: internal divisions which reflect political and ideological fissures in the wider black community; state repression (an estimated 4,000 trade

unionists have been jailed for varying periods over the past two years); and a black unemployment rate of 25 to 30 per cent which ensures that there is always a large pool of "scab" labour eager to replace sacked strikers.

Estimates supplied by the Government's National Manpower Commission and independent sources put the total trade union membership of all races at about 2.2 million, or about 22 per cent of the economically active population of 10 million, which is more than 70 per cent black. Black trade union members are put at 1.35 million, or 13.5 per cent of the total work force.

Cosatu was founded in December, 1985, after the merger of several previous organizations and is aligned ideologically with the United Democratic Front and the outlawed African National Congress. It is by far the biggest labour federation in the country and now claims a total paid-up membership of 712,000, compared with 450,000 at its launch.

One of its main achievements under its General Secretary, Mr Jay Naidoo, has been the reduction of the 33 affiliated unions it inherited in 1985 to 12 today, one for each

of the main economic sectors: mining, transport, metal, construction, food, chemical, health and education, commercial and catering, paper, textile, municipal and domestic.

That has undoubtedly concentrated the bargaining power of the federation much more effectively by eliminating competition between different unions in the same industry, but the pace of merger (in the metal industry alone nine rival unions were involved) has caused serious strain. One failure has been in the commercial and catering sector which has split into two hostile union factions.

The rift was provoked in part by Cosatu's formal adoption at its last national congress in July of the Freedom Charter, the nebulously socialist document subscribed to by the ANC and its legal shadow, the UDF, as their political manifesto. This has made membership near-impossible for black consciousness-oriented unions linked to the Pan Africanist Congress.

The main home for these unions is a rival federation, the National Council of Trade Unions, formed in October, 1986. It has about 350,000 members in some 20 affiliated trade unions. Its philosophy is hardline socialist, covering a spectrum from Trotskyist to Marxist-Leninist, with a heavy "Africanist" overlay, expressed in an insistence on exclusively black union leadership.

A third force on the labour scene is the United Workers' Union of South Africa, launched in May, 1986, as the trade union arm of the Inkatha movement led by the Zulu leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthe. Pro-capitalist economic sanctions and dis-



Surge of protest: Construction workers demonstrating in Johannesburg during a strike by 500 men over pay.

## Airport worker tells of Benigno Aquino shooting

## Witness pins killing on army

From Humphrey Hawksley, Manila

A surprise witness yesterday told a court that he saw a soldier shoot the opposition leader, Mr Benigno Aquino, as he was returning from exile at Manila airport in 1983.

It is the first time that a witness has testified that the military carried out the assassination, which led to mass demonstrations and the eventual downfall of President Ferdinand Marcos in February, 1986.

Mr Jesse Barcelona, an airport worker, said that he was driving a towing tractor on the apron when he saw Mr Aquino with three military escorts about to get off the China Airlines plane. He saw a soldier point a gun at the nape of Mr Aquino's neck. "The gun went off. The man toppled forward," he said.

Mr Barcelona, whose testimony could be crucial to the outcome of the trial, has been under police protection for several weeks and appeared in court under a heavy guard.

The chief prosecutor, Mr Raul Gonzales, named Constable Rogelio Moreno as the soldier directly behind Mr Aquino and the possible assassin. But the trial took another turn when Mr Gonzales announced that he had received a death threat. A hand grenade had been found in his office with a note warning him not to proceed with the case.

This is the second trial concerning the murder of Mr Aquino. The first, held when Mr Marcos was still in power, heard evidence from a passenger on Mr Aquino's flight that he saw a soldier point a

gun at Mr Aquino's head, but she did not hear any shot.

That trial ended in December, 1985 - just two months before Mr Marcos was overthrown - with the acquittal of the defendants, who included the Military Chief of Staff at that time, General Fabian Ver.

The court found that Mr Aquino was shot by a communist gunman who was immediately killed by security men. But when Mrs Aquino stepped into her husband's role and came to power, the Supreme Court said that those

Manila (Reuters) - Celso Abella, a man licensed only to be a lookout, was piloting the oil tanker Vector when it collided with the ferry Dona Paz, killing 2,000 people, a shipmate said yesterday.

Raynaldo Turefe, who had acted as a lookout himself although licensed just as a deckhand, told investigators that Abella had been allowed by Vector Shipping officials to pilot the tanker.

findings were a whitewash.

General Ver, who fled from the country, is again on trial together with 35 other military men and four civilians. The trial is in its ninth month.

● MANILA: The Philippine presidential press corps began an indefinite news boycott of President Aquino yesterday, saying that she had treated them shabbily and favoured foreign journalists (Reuters reports).

The group said that in her 22 months as president, she had met the palace press corps only four times.

## Film of Stalin camps fuels row

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The release of an important new Soviet film, *The Cold Summer of 1953*, described as the first shown here to feature innocent victims of Stalin's camps, has highlighted the divisive debate now raging in the Soviet Union over the pros and cons of the dictator's bloody rule.

While many Soviet intellectuals are now campaigning for the erection of an official monument to the millions of innocent victims of the Stalin era, an increasing number of letters from Soviet citizens infuriated by the anti-Stalin campaign in the media have begun to receive wide coverage.

The new film, one of the few genuine thrillers produced by the Soviet film industry, has already received rave reviews from the "reformist" weekly, *Moscow News*, which predicted that it would be the box office success of 1988. "To top it all, it is the first Soviet film to feature political prisoners, the victims of Stalinist terror", the paper said.

One of the two political prisoners featured in the film is the former technical director of a large firm who served 14

years on a trumped-up spying charge, and the other is the film's hero, a former commander in military reconnaissance who, after escaping from the Nazis, was falsely branded as "a traitor to the Motherland" and dispatched to one of Stalin's many notorious camps.

Played by the charismatic Soviet actor, Valery Priyomykhov, he shows the true worth of his character by saving all the residents of a Soviet village from a vicious gang of criminals freed after Stalin's death.

While in its latest edition *Moscow News* takes up the call for a public monument to Stalin's victims, first put forward by Nikita Khrushchev during the 22nd Communist Party Congress, formerly pro-Stalinist letters have been flooding into the offices of *Izvestia*.

Much of the anger was aroused by the publication in November of a controversial poem, "The Heirs of Stalin", by Yevgeny Yevtushenko. One letter urged that he and other anti-Stalinist authors be sent to Siberia "according to the good old customs from Stalin's time."

A retired Soviet Army officer was one of those whose letters in defence of the dictator were published in *Izvestia's* weekly supplement, *Nedelnyy*. "Quite honestly, it is really disgusting to read the writings of all those 'has-beens', 'resentful', 'victimised', 'censored' people, who have now crawled on to the pages of magazines and newspapers with their remembrances, facts and vulgar intimacies, inflaming peoples' memories of the past, and relishing it", the officer wrote.

Addressing the paper's editorial board, he added: "Does it not seem to you, dear comrades, that this sad farce of glasnost (especially in the area of culture) will pass, and that you, reviewing what has been written, will speak about losses to literature?"

Commenting on the pro-Stalin posting, a liberal journalist, Vyacheslav Kondratyev, said in a bitter article: "In many of the letters Mikhail Gorbachev is cited, but not in one... are the 'crimes of the leader' mentioned. Do they not believe him? Not even the General-Secretary (of the Communist Party)? Or do they not want to believe him?"

"Let us look truth in the face. By now it is common knowledge that the officer corps of the Army was lost in the 1930s. It is common knowledge how many lives were taken in the forced collectivization."

The journalist, who called for an end to the Soviet habit of looking at the country's past "through rose-tinted spectacles" said that only a handful of the letters from war veterans, prompted by the publication of the *Memorandum* poem, had been opposed to Stalin. He quoted from one poem sent to the paper by a former soldier:

If you want to admit honesty  
In the trenches, we thought  
least of all about Stalin.

We remembered the Lord  
God more often -  
Then Stalin.

He had nothing to do with  
our soldiers' war

And there was simply no  
reason to speak of him

Were it not for the newspapers,  
we would have forgotten

This name, so uncommon in  
the Russian language.

## Militants kill five in Punjab

Delhi (AP) - Sikh militants shot dead five people, one a senior member of the Congress Party of the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in northern Punjab state, the United News of India reported yesterday.

Two Sikhs on a scooter killed the vice-president of the Punjab unit of the party, Mr Jagat Ram, and a friend, Mr Vijay Chaudhri. In another incident, three members of a Sikh family were shot dead.

## Climber ill

Islamabad (Reuters) - Mike Woolridge, aged 27, of Llanwrst, North Wales, was being flown home from an expedition to the world's second highest peak, K2, because of an inflamed appendix.

## Cablecar toll

Merano (Reuters) - Mirko Libelli, aged 18, fell 50ft to his death and two other teenagers were seriously injured when a cablecar set off with its doors open in the Italian Dolomites.

## Cyprus poll

Nicosia (Reuters) - Cyprus will hold presidential elections on February 14, with President Kyprianou seeking a third term, despite a recent heart attack.

## Road hold-up

Peking (AP) - Peasants dragged the corpse of a hit-and-run victim on to a main road and caused a vast traffic jam as they extorted money from travellers.

## Tobacco ban

Canberra (Reuters) - Australia will ban the manufacture and import of chewing tobacco and snuff made for oral use because of believed links to cancer of the mouth.

## Getting better

Belgrade (AP) - Mr Branko Mikulic, Yugoslavia's Prime Minister, has shown a marked recovery since being confined in hospital with a high fever.

## Flights grant

Harare (Reuters) - Air Zimbabwe won a month's reprieve to fly to Britain while it fits aircraft silencers to comply with new anti-noise laws.

## Envoy sacked

Kathmandu (AP) - Nepal has recalled Mr Bishwa Pradhan, Ambassador to Washington, and ended his service after book theft allegations.

## Kenya arrests

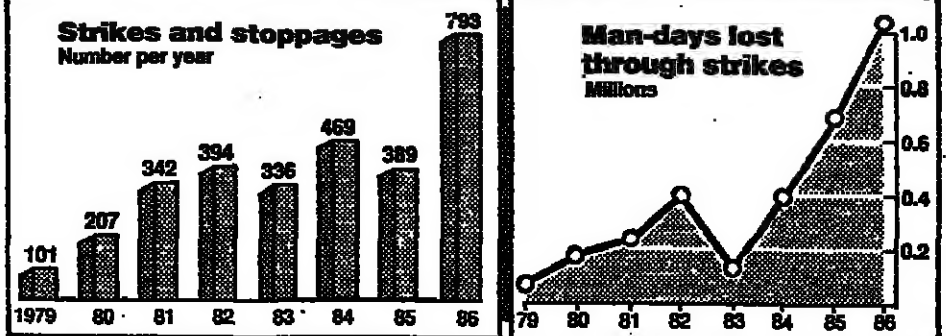
Nairobi (Reuters) - Kenyan security forces arrested 120 followers of Ugandan rebel priest, Alice Lakwena, after they crossed into Kenya.

## Strike delays

Madrid - A strike by airport meteorologists and electronic maintenance technicians delayed some flights and forced the cancellation of others.

## Ershad tour

Dhaka (Reuters) - President Ershad of Bangladesh has left on a four-day visit to Egypt despite mounting protests at home against his rule.



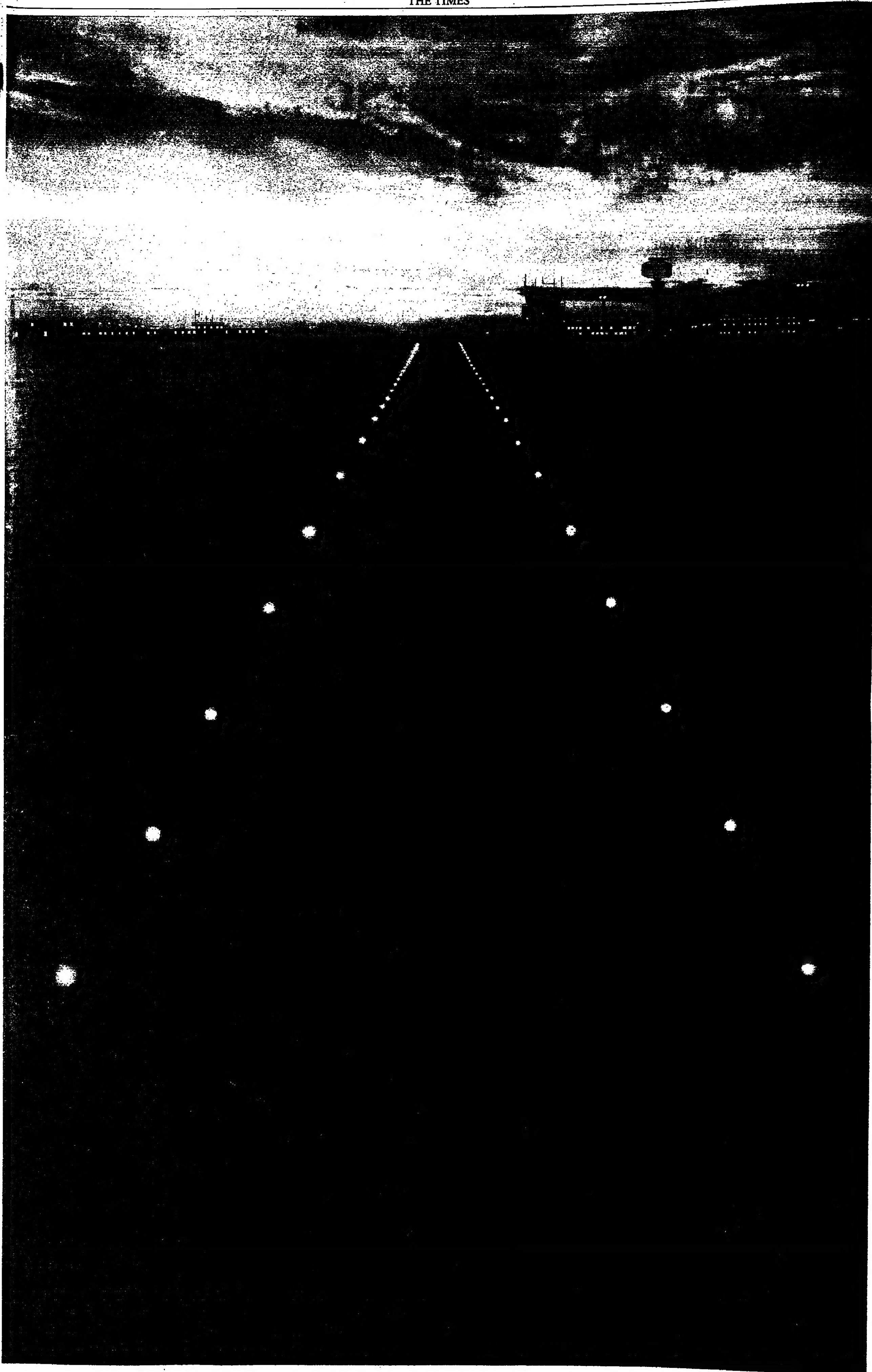






سكزا بن الامن

THE TIMES





# YOUR NEW CLUB LANDS TODAY.

## ... CLUB ... ... EUROPE ...

British Airways new Business Class arrives today with a new service to help you arrive ready to do business.

On Club Europe, we've introduced 'Seamless Service'. It begins on the ground with Express check-in at Heathrow.

Now, instead of wasting time in queues you and your hand-baggage can board without delay.

On board, we've taken out seats on over 85% of our European fleet from London so you'll have more space to yourself.

And with the first flight of the day from London to 30 continental cities you'll be landing fresh and ready for the day.

Meanwhile, on Club World, we're fighting long haul fatigue with a battery of new products and services designed to help you arrive refreshed.

We've introduced 'Slumber Seats', ergonomically designed to relax and support your entire body so you can stretch out over the long stretches.

You will be soothed by steaming hot towels, relaxed by fine wines, delighted by dinner served regally on Royal Doulton bone china and indulged by our award-winning staff.

As your destination nears, you'll be ready with our refresher kit. Inside you'll find everything to help you arrive looking your best.

You'll feel on top of the world, even if you've just flown across most of it.

## ... CLUB ... ... WORLD ...



# THE TIMES DIARY

## Macmillan time bomb

Hold on for a sequel to the revelations in the 30-Year Rule papers of Harold Macmillan's Windcase fire cover-up. In 1958, Macmillan's air ministry assured the public that no atomic warheads were stored at RAF Sculthorpe, Norfolk, the scene of a dramatic siege involving an American airman who was threatening to shoot himself. Though the camp was put under emergency restrictions and villagers miles away were told to close their curtains, the story held for four years. Then the US Defence Department announced that the airman, Sergeant Leander Cunningham, had threatened to take Norfolk with him by firing into an atom bomb, and that its TNT detonator, at least, could have gone bang. Questioned in the Commons by Michael Foot and Tom Driberg, Macmillan insisted, with characteristic insouciance, that the base had no atom bombs and the only concern was that Cunningham might have done "something foolish with a pistol". Come next January 1, we should discover exactly what Macmillan knew.

As the *Spectator* battle dragged on, no one seemed to notice that extracts were printed in the *West Highland Free Press* last August. The pieces were in Gaelic, thus confounding most government watchdogs. The weekly paper, which has just come clean, also printed some extracts in English but played safe — confining them to Peter Wright's recollections of life in the Western Highlands in the 1930s.

## Carbuncle club

Prince Charles's views on architecture have struck a chord with the good folk of Devon. Last May his comparison of a Plessey computer factory with a Victorian prison caused only a titter in the press. Locals, however, were not prepared to let the latter rest and bombarded radio phone-ins with clamorous complaints. Now painters are hard at work on the red-girdled, grey-boxed. The plant manager, Stuart McIntosh, tells me the locals' main objection was that the building, which overlooks the sea into Dartmoor National Park, was too obtrusive. The ashy school red is now being overed with "pastel grey". McIntosh hopes this will quieten critics, but adds: "How a building that's 50 feet high and 4 yards square can blend in with nothing is another question."



ve faith, Albert, they'll discover something else to keep you off work

## Tailor-made

John Ollington, the designer of the Tat's Beatrix Potter edition, has had his wrists cuffed for sending other orders a Christmas card showing Digby and Peter Rabbit sitting up the gallery steps. Ollington, who produced the 20 as a thank-you, promptly received a letter from Sally Floyer, owner of the Potter copyright, telling him to destroy all materials connected with the card. Ollington, who has now shredded his ties, is filled with remorse for breach of copyright and insists Mrs Floyer are still friends. "I don't think Christmas card came the same point," Mrs Floyer, the defender of Potter's her- better known to fans as the on who presided over the on to allow Peter Rabbit to be simplified and re-ated by Ladybird Books.

American hawks need not be in despair at post-summit good-wards "Gorbey". Selling well Christmas was a hard game. The *Next War* in Europe, which players display com- ing missiles as counters.

## Pressing issue

While David Steel was preparing to first-foot it round his village at Hogenney, he so trying to work out details new Alliance party's policy with SDP leader Bob Mannan, who was in America. The Liberal leader due to set for Kenya as MacLennan to London, the two were communicating by fax. But talk at one point when from Boston" (as he became in the Steel household) to talk about a document just transmitted. Steel, not for his technological com- 2, looked in vain for the — until he realized he had 1 in the iron instead of the chine.

# NHS: a closure of minds

by David Willetts

The greatest puzzle in the debate about the state of the National Health Service is the enormous gap between the government's statistics showing the NHS getting better and the public's belief that it is getting worse. Although the Opposition attacks it vehemently, the government is following policies and funding principles that are very similar to those of its Labour predecessor.

The arguments on finance will never be finally resolved. So many different concepts of real spending are involved that the argument becomes a confusing mixture of metaphysics and sharp accountancy. But the government's record looks reasonable. NHS spending grew no faster than GDP under the last Labour government whereas it has grown more rapidly than GDP since 1979, when of course the economy has itself been performing better. So it is hard to explain public worries about the NHS by a catastrophic drop in the level of funding. We have to look elsewhere.

The problem is that NHS policies are not understood by the majority of the population and do not coincide with what the voters want. The horror stories which disturb most people involve matters of life and death — kidney operations or babies with holes in the heart. Old ladies suffering

from inadequate chiropody services do not get on the front page of the tabloid press. So a popular health policy would have to give priority to acute surgical care.

Many of the leading figures in medicine are based in London, as of course are most influential journalists. This ensures that the capital's problems get major publicity. Moreover, polls suggest that people in the South-east are the ones most dissatisfied with their health care. So the world-wide politician should shift health funds to London.

The most emotive health issue in any constituency is the closing of a popular cottage hospital. Somehow the shiny new district general hospital in the next town never quite compensates, even if it can provide more advanced care. The shrewd politician would save money by not building new hospitals and instead pay to keep the old ones open.

NHS policies — based on needs, not demands — run directly counter to these populist instincts. The priority groups under the present government, as under its predecessor, are mentally handicapped, mentally disturbed and elderly people. The Resource Allocation Working Party takes

funds out of London to less well-provided parts of the country. It has also operated within regions, shifting resources out of teaching districts to the suburbs.

The gaining districts then spend their extra money on new services for the priority groups, rather than acute surgical facilities to replace the ones which are under pressure, notably, but not only, in London. Like Labour, this government has continued closing smaller hospitals and opening larger ones (hospitals have been closed at an average rate of 38 a year since 1979 as against 54 a year under the previous Labour government).

But the government's political problems are not just caused by sticking to the established wisdom of the health policy experts. Deeper historical forces are at work. The NHS waiting list has always oscillated between half a million and three quarters of a million. But when the health service was established people were also queuing to get their ration of sugar and meat.

Queuing was accepted as a part of everyday life. Now if people are kept waiting they contact the media or their local MP and individual cases of suffering are laid directly at the door of the

government. But if queuing is no longer acceptable then the NHS cannot survive in its present form. A free, tax-financed system cannot offer all the health care that people want on demand.

A recent history of the London hospital system had as its front cover a picture of a hospital with a banner draped over the main entrance reading "Save the Middlesex Hospital! £500,000 needed." That was in the 1920s, when it was said that none of the charity hospitals need have a problem so long as they were bankrupt. It was that perverse incentive to use funding crises to raise more money which persuaded reformers that there must be a better way of financing hospitals. But it is also one of the paradoxes of public funding that, however good a job one is doing, there are great incentives to say how bad things are. That is how to squeeze more money out of the government.

Indeed, we have now reached the absurd position where to say that things are not all that bad is taken as evidence of personal moral inadequacy. But to call for more taxpayers' money is simply an excuse for not thinking about these deeper issues.

© Times Newspapers, 1987. The author is director of studies, Centre for Policy Studies.

## David Bonavia on the financial cracks in Hong Kong's hopes of autonomy

# Crashing into China?

Hong Kong is used to crisis — one might even say it has thrived on it. But last year's world stock market crash and now the whiff of financial scandal make the territory's ability to survive and rebuild look more doubtful as it enters its final decade under British administration and tries to adjust to the uncertain future under China.

The recent arrest of the former chairman and two senior members of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on corruption charges promotes an international image the territory could do without. The government and business community had devoutly hoped their image would improve after the international financial crisis had been weathered.

The China factor has always been important economically, but now it is also a vital political issue. China's willingness to let the six million people of Hong Kong go on living in their accustomed style after the transfer of sovereignty in 1997 depends on the territory's ability to go on paying its way in a world threatened with continued recession and increased protectionism.

If China should get her own economic act together, and become impatient with a flagging Hong Kong, she might start imposing disciplines after 1997 which would make a mockery of the 1984 agreement with London to protect its citizens' rights. By then it will be too late to help.

The recent modernization of the stock market was seen as part of the huge development of the tertiary sector which was transforming Hong Kong's image from that of an entrepot port and somewhat suspect manufacturing centre into that of a glossy, self-confident financial powerhouse — the fourth biggest in the world.

The importing of funds, especially from the United States, but also from Japan and Australia, was marked by over-heating of the property sector, but this is a cyclic phenomenon to which Hong Kong has become more or less accustomed, and financiers here are more philosophical about bank failures than in older established banking centres.

The basis of the post-war economy has been manufacturing for export, and this has remained sound. On top of that have come mass tourism, heightened media activity, joint ventures with China and many other money-spinners. But then came the international financial crisis and the scandals. The people of Hong Kong, at a time when they most need their life savings, are disgusted with those who may, for many, have been responsible for their loss. There is widespread disillusionment — justified or not — with



what is portrayed by critics as the government's mishandling of the stock market crisis.

Nearly everybody who can is planning to leave Hong Kong by 1997. Though this will probably account for a few hundred thousand people at the most, it is a straw clinched by many who have seen Chinese communism in its fiercest, earlier modes, and may have spent decades here earning enough to put the ocean between themselves and its successors.

To obtain permission to emigrate to Canada, the United States, Australia, Britain or elsewhere, a Chinese person from Hong Kong without UK resident's status must join a long queue, show good humanitarian reason, or have enough money immediately to set up a business. Yet the savings of many, put in the stock market because share dealings have long been the hobby of both the middle and working classes, have been taken from them. It is quite likely they have thereby lost their chance of emigrating with their children. They must rethink their lives and learn to live with the idea of China as the tutelary power.

As Chinese, most of them know they can do this if they have to, but as Chinese they are also deeply worried about their children and grandchildren. Of course, by reverting to the status of the other 5.5

million or so who have no way to get out, they are simply suffering the lot of the majority, but that does not make it any easier.

For those still with the ability to emigrate, the financial crisis has provided stimulus to do so as soon as possible, because if Hong Kong is going to suffer economic instability on top of everything else, its charms visibly pall. And those who succeed in emigrating are almost inevitably those with the most initiative, forethought and intelligence.

It has been evident for the past year or two that the standard of service trades here is falling as clever, English-speaking young people find ways out. Professional people, apart from the black sheep, are still of a high standard, having been trained in Britain and other countries as well as in Hong Kong. But most of them have their exit visas ready.

The arrest of the three top Stock Exchange men, whatever the outcome of their cases, has given the public the feeling that at least something is being done and that there are effective watchdogs who will act when necessary. It is now up to the judiciary to show that justice is done, and public confidence in the judiciary is not particularly high since the out-

come of a number of controversial cases over the past few years.

Sir David Wilson, the governor, has been given an unfortunate start to his appointment less than a year ago, and the public has not yet decided whether his bland and scholarly style reflects the underlying toughness that will be needed in handling the problems of the next few years.

For Sir David the financial crisis is an unwelcome diversion from his main task — the facilitating of a fair and amicable agreement with Peking on the details of transfer of sovereignty and on the political development of the territory in the meantime. This is already proving a minefield.

Although Hong Kong opinion is traditionally marinated on big political questions, it is becoming less so, and there is a small but growing number of outspoken people in positions of influence who are convinced that China intends to go behind the local people's back to impose, with London's consent, a system of government that will greatly dilute the internal autonomy foreseen in the 1984 agreement.

On the whole, Hong Kong's economic head-start over China seems to make it unlikely that China will want to damage its profitability. Indeed Peking and Canton show the greatest solicitude for the Hong Kong economy, their newspapers closely following events on the stock market and in the banking world. The Bank of China offered generous aid when the market was in trouble last year.

China's interest in the welfare of capitalism in Hong Kong is in tune with the tone of disillusionment with Marxist economics which dominated the recent party congress in Peking. For all its faults, the Chinese leadership now admits, capitalism has indisputable lessons for socialist countries seeking growth, and where better to learn to practise capitalism than in adjacent Hong Kong?

The only real lever which Britain and Hong Kong have been able to use against Chinese political pressure has been the argument: "If you do that, investment will be scared off." Previously unwilling publicly to admit the justice of this argument, while recognizing it privately, the Peking government has by and large left Hong Kong to its own devices. It is, after all, a major export market for China.

But if the British and Hong Kong governments are seen to tolerate a situation in which the conditions prevailing in Hong Kong deter investors from sinking their money there, that crucial argument is weakened, and China can say: "Yes capitalism is all very well, but obviously you need a dose of socialist discipline, too."

selected and trained: more than is true of jurors, whose random selection and inexperience surely count against the professionalism of the Crown Court judge.

It is really a question of resources. Some 900 professional judges and 24,000 magistrates are available to sit at 90 Crown Court centres to cope with 6,500 appeals against convictions in magistrates' courts each year. By contrast, there are occasionally four panels of three senior judges in London must handle nearly 2,000 appeals against Crown Court convictions, plus a massive load of sentencing appeals. They do their conscientious best, but they are fearfully overworked. Hearing and rehearing evidence is very time consuming and so must be kept to an absolute minimum.

To provide for more appeals by way of rehearing would cost money. Because many wicked and guilty people would undoubtedly try to exploit any extended system of appeal, some would think this was unjustified. But if the cost of rehearing a careless driving case is justified, then surely it must be justified for crimes like murder, grievous bodily harm or rape, where the price of a miscarriage of justice can be wrongful imprisonment for life.

John Spencer

The author is a fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge.

Tony Blair

# How the Tories limit choice

The wall-to-wall analysis of Mrs Thatcher's premiership has dwelt so intensively on her personality that it has obscured the demise of one essential part of her philosophy. The limits of Thatcherism, as a credible creed of opportunity, have been reached. For all its rhetoric the government has, with few exceptions, failed the consumer miserably. More broadly, it has shown itself incapable or unwilling to defend the citizen against the misuse of power, economic or social, by strong vested interests. Instead, it confuses liberalization with choice, deregulation with choice, the absence of government with the presence of freedom.

This neglect of the consumer stretches beyond the privatized industries to cover a whole range of issues: the concentration of newspaper ownership; a legal system in danger of becoming a lottery for all but the very poor on legal aid or the very rich; the refusal to countenance even minimal restraint on Whitehall's intol-

erable secrecy. We were told, for example, that privatization would bring us efficiency and choice. But immediately British Airways has swallowed up British Caledonian, ending 20 years of aviation policy designed to protect the consumer through a "second force" airline. BP is pursuing Brioil. The utilities are no better. Of British Telecom, no more need be said. British Gas, meanwhile, is being investigated by the Monopolies Commission.

Mrs Thatcher is very selective about the vested interests she attacks. Trade unions and local government, yes. But not estate agents or the legal profession. More fundamentally, however, she equates freedom of choice with an unrestricted market. This is not to say that the Tories don't regulate. They do, as the panoply of measures in the Financial Services Act proves.

But redistributing power to the consumer is not simply a question of regulating the market to see that only honest people operate in it or providing a formal framework of protection. It requires a willingness to examine and challenge the power structure of the market itself: the competition there is within it, how far it cares for the needs of ordinary people, how its prices and charges are fixed, how it provides the knowledge and information that is the key to real choice.

Every day it becomes clearer that liberalization of the financial sector in itself does not guarantee effective choice. There is nothing to secure the small investor against the raising of share commission rates to a prohibitive level; no means of inquiring how banks and building societies make their rules governing accounts or setting interest rates; nothing to protect the insured against the inordinate delays in paying claims or against exorbitant premiums; no probing of the massive and largely unaccountable power of pension funds, now controlling,

with other institutions, 70 per cent of the shares in the UK.

This argument applies with equal, if not greater vigour, to the public services. Stripped of propaganda, the Thatcherite answer to the problems faced by consumers in the public sector — parents worried about their children's education, tenants in sub-standard housing, patients trying to obtain care from the NHS — is that as many as possible should escape from it. Virtually no senior minister uses the public health or education services which they control. But, even on the wildest assumptions, this solution will be available only to a small minority of the population.

A truly radical public-service programme would start by granting rights to consumers across the board: to council house tenants waiting for repairs, telephone and gas users, the sick and those confronted with the often impenetrable walls of the DHSS.

More generally, whether in the public or private sector, the consumer should always have a sanction. Where there is a monopoly, as there will of necessity be in certain areas, this means having directly enforceable rights to demand a decent service.

The term "consumer" is actually inadequate. The importance of "consumer" issues reflects much more profound changes in the nature of our society, beginning long before Mrs Thatcher. First, as society has grown more prosperous and better educated, with big advances in science and technology, its citizens have been able, indeed obliged, to exercise choice to a much greater degree and over a much wider area of activities, goods and services. Second, the "producer" is no longer homogeneous. Work is hugely varied, both in its type and conditions of employment.

Mrs Thatcher's error is to think that the impact of these changes will make people more hostile to the very notion of society. "There is no such thing as society," she said recently, "only individuals and families." In fact, society will exist wherever individuals perceive a shared community of interest. Producer "solidarity" is possible on the way out, but consumer or citizen "solidarity" is certainly not. A society is opening up into which Labour, as the party of intervention, can move. But it must recognize two things: it cannot design its policies to appeal simply to its own producer interests — in any event, trade unionists are consumers and citizens too; and it must use government intervention as an instrument to promote choice, not uniformity, accepting that the role for government which modern society seeks is not to exercise choice for people but to ensure they have the means and ability to exercise it for themselves. Reclaiming the language of "opportunity" for Labour is long overdue.

The author is Labour MP for Sedgfield.

## however... Henry Stanhope

# Mon ami, why so miserable?

Women in Britain, Western Europe and America are happier than men, according to a transatlantic survey. You wouldn't have thought so by listening to them, but I'm sure that it's true.

The British, it seems, are less ecstatic than the Dutch but jollier than the Germans and the Greeks. Professional people are perkier than those "in trade" and farmers grumble louder than a tractor on a hill farm in mid-Wales.

If you ask me, the happiest of all must be Professor Ronald Inglehart of Michigan University and M Jacques-René Rabier of the European Commission, who conducted the research and would seem to have got a nice little number going for them. If I could get paid for researching human happiness worldwide, I should certainly be delirious with joy.

However, it's an interesting subject. According to the Inglehart-Rabier findings, a married woman doctor in The Hague must count herself among the most blessed Europeans. The former Queen Juliana of The Netherlands once said: "Happiness? What is that?" — or words to that effect. But then, uneasy lies any head that wears a crown.

I have always thought that the French should be the happiest race in Europe. They have the sun in the south, up to the north, and a land full of rural goodness between. France still has one-man garages and farms with clucking hens, and cafes in country streets with sleeping cats. Who in this "best garden of the world", as the Duke of Burgundy called it, could not beam upon the world?

Well, the people who can't are the French. They don't even have to endure being kicked around the globe like the poor old Americans and us, or being resented like the Germans or the Japs. The French do what they like and get away with it. They behave like a bunch of ruffians, yet are treated with respect. "Oh, you know what they're like," people say, with a hopeless shrug of the shoulders and a rolling upward glance.

The French are always as miserable as sin, except when winning at rugby. They grunt over their beautiful and brave, scream from their wretched Renaults on

the autoroutes, and barely manage a *Merci* on the Metro.

The poor old Brits, jam-packed like raspberry seeds between cosmopolitan estates of appalling size and ugliness, gaze forward at the size of Heathrow and towns centres full of hideous plastic shopfronts, seem by comparison quite serene.

I think happiness depends on expectations. If one is used to fresh bread and fine wine, to sunshine and subservience from the neighbours, any deviation breeds resentment. If, on the other hand, one is accustomed to frozen broccoli and *suet pudding*, the aroma of an *escalope cordon bleu* or the sight of a plump *saute mouton* on its dish can send one into transports of delight. The British these days look happier than most because they feel that things can only get better. Americans, by contrast, are plagued by an uneasy feeling that they won't.

That is roughly too why women are happier than men, though, according to the survey, there's not much in it. Men, the real romantics, keep wandering round in bewilderment in search of some lost objective, like a spaniel which has raced off after a ball and, try as it might, can't find it.

Women are much more self-contained and practical. Their dreams are unattainable and they know it — so they settle for a new pair of shoes and a box of Black Magic. In fact, if their trunks were packed like aspirins in a bottle, and inquires after the depth of your contentment, the answer might be predictable. If on the other hand he approached one on a sunny May morning in Paris, in a little cafe one knows quite near the Seine, with the scent of fresh coffee and croissants, I think that the middle-aged British journalist might score quite heavily in the league of happiness. That's why I just can't understand the French.



ony Blair  
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## GLIBNESS IN GAZA

Israel's raids in Lebanon and the decision to deport nine Palestinians have earned widespread condemnation from other governments and an ominous threat of reprisals from Arab terrorists. As all this was predictable, one must assume that it was allowed for by Jerusalem. Israel has once more shown the world that it, and it alone, will decide how best to handle its security.

This calculation is unlikely to have been swayed yesterday by the antics of Mr David Mellor, junior minister at the Foreign Office. Refugee camps are depressing places at the best of times and no doubt Mr Mellor was moved by the experience. But for more than a generation, it has been in the interests of the leaders of the anti-Israeli cause to keep them wretched — not that conditions in them are much worse than those in which Arabs are forced to live in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere.

The Arab world, when it was awash with oil money, could have afforded to improve life in the camps had it really wanted to do so, but chose not to. After the 1978 Camp David agreement, Egypt promised to develop Sinai to provide work for the refugees of Gaza — but has done little.

Arab leaders would retort that it is not for them to take responsibility for the camps because that would be to recognize the permanence of their inhabitants' exclusion from their Palestinian homeland. But this is only to confirm that conditions in the camps are therefore not upmost in many Arab minds. So it is a good deal more complicated than Mr Mellor seems to think. For him to air his opinions so glibly raises serious questions about his political wisdom.

The attack on guerrilla positions in Southern Lebanon was in retaliation for the hang-glider raid six weeks ago, when Arab terrorists killed six soldiers as they slept. It is hard to defend the morality of revenge. But such actions must be judged against the harsh reality of politics in the Levant, rather than that which obtains in

Western Europe. The general stance of Israeli governments is defensive.

The retaliatory attack was late in coming because the United States had urged delay, at least until well after the Washington summit. Jerusalem hawks later complained, however, that it was Israel's inaction which encouraged the subsequent rioting on the West Bank and in Gaza. It was seen by its enemies as a sign of weakness — an impression which at some point had to be corrected.

The decision to expel nine of the Palestinian troublemakers from the occupied territories has also embarrassed Israel's Western allies. Again it must be judged against Israel's need to defuse a potentially explosive situation. By removing the other side's leaders, Israel hopes that the threat of more violence will subside.

Whether this is so remains to be seen. A more pertinent question is whether the action will strengthen or weaken Israeli security — and help or hinder the cause of peace in the Middle East. It certainly provides more fuel for Israel's critics. It raises questions about where the men might go — and puts moderate Arab states in some embarrassment. These, too, are such obvious consequences that they must have been accepted by Jerusalem as a calculated risk.

With the United States and Israel preparing for elections late this year, and Arab minds concentrated on the Iran-Iraq war, the chances of imminent movement in the peace process must be slight. There is thus little alternative to preserving the status quo in the Israel-Palestine quarrel. Israel has suffered appallingly from Arab terrorists and those who harbour them need little sympathy. As no other country seems capable or willing to deal with them effectively, Israel must be let to do so itself.

This cannot, however, be a long-term solution. Successive Israeli governments have been too reluctant to risk ceding the land that would be the price for peace. The courage and determination of modern Israel are not in themselves enough.

## BATTLE OF THE DOLLAR

Last year's cliff-hanging story in the currency markets was about a struggle between market forces and finance ministers over the sustainable level of the dollar. The market won and the dollar fell.

Yesterday, central bankers returned refreshed and in force to establish their preferred tale of stability, offering to stock markets as well as an air of concerted optimism. The economic outlook for the next two or three years may depend on the outcome.

There is now a much better chance of turning the tide than last February, when the Louvre accord sought — with initial success — to catch the dollar in mid-flight. In financial markets, momentum usually carries prices beyond their sustainable level in either direction. When that point is reached, concerted intervention, whether public or private, can halt and reverse a trend, rather than just smooth it out.

Intervention was certainly concerted yesterday. The New York Federal Reserve seems to have joined the Japanese and West German central banks. Even France's finance minister, M. Edouard Balladur, sang the same tune, revealing a "secret" clause behind the latest statement of cooperation by the Group of Seven leading financial powers pledging joint action in the markets.

It is, however, far too early to tell whether this new year resolution will prove credible. The Group of Seven statement clearly did not. To ally doubt over commitment to dollar stabilization in the United States, it stressed that any further decline in the dollar "could be counter-productive, by damaging growth prospects in the world economy". Yet the dollar still stood 3 per cent lower against sterling last night than it had when the statement was published on December 23.

The fear persists that, while the White House may not want the dollar to fall any more, the expiring Reagan Administration still finds the supposed market solution to its ever-rising

trade deficit an easier option than further policy measures. Prominent officials have almost ruled out a rise in interest rates to sustain the currency.

Some banks are even now testing the water for lower rates. At the same time, there is a self-sustaining momentum of decline. Each further slide in the dollar has the initial effect of raising the money trade deficit faster than the adjustment of import and export can cut it. There are echoes here of Britain in 1976.

Mr Nigel Lawson has rightly noted that the dollar's excessive fall presents an even greater immediate threat to the world economy than the sapping of confidence in the stock market crash. Europe faces severe difficulties from a slowdown in exports and, while Japan has thus far adjusted well, there are limits to its speed of response.

Curing the US trade deficit by continuous devaluation alone (with little help this year from the budget) could cost 4 million jobs in the rest of the world. Before that happened, foreign investors would surely stop funding the US budget, eventually forcing such sharp rises in interest rates or domestic saving that recession would be inevitable in the United States as well.

As that earlier British experience showed, continuous market devaluation cannot of itself resolve a country's internal economic imbalances. The milestone recorded in Mrs Thatcher's stunt in Downing Street is a reminder that the hard decisions now needed in the United States can carry their own long-term political reward. But such initiatives are for new governments, not old ones, as the currency dealers well know.

Much, therefore, rests on the psychology of the markets. The chance to break the dollar's fall by concerted intervention must therefore be seized — and pursued with words as well as cash until the trend-followers realize the game is over.

## THE NEXT TUNNEL

Scarcely has the long-delayed Channel Tunnel project started to get off — or rather under — the ground than one of the companies involved, the Costain Group, has proposed a new series of large-scale engineering projects. Like the Tunnel, they would be backed by private money. Like the Tunnel, they show commendable qualities of scale and vision.

The latest Costain proposals aim to ease the transport congestion of London and the South-east. They countenance a road running under the Thames from Chiswick to Tower Bridge, a second, express-way, tier for the M25, and an alternative, private, rail network for the South-east. They are not as fanciful as they might at first seem.

The course of the Thames is one of the few unused routes of subterranean London. Building above, rather than parallel to, the already crowded M25 has at least conceptual elegance. It is to be hoped that the feasibility of the ideas can be tested expeditiously and, if demonstrated, attract financial backing more quickly than the Channel Tunnel did.

While the estimated total (£7 billion) exceeds that required by the Channel Tunnel project as a whole, fund-raising should be easier. The three projects are not interdependent and the maximum required by each is £2-3 billion. Financing is unlikely to be the chief problem, however.

Plans for a two-tier M25 will raise environmental objections, some of which may be justified. The proposed high-speed rail network to link the Channel Tunnel with the rest of the South-east is likely to face major problems of planning consent, as well as hostility from vested interests in the railway establishment and the trade unions.

Most promising would appear to be the

projected 16-mile road link between the end of the M4 motorway in west London and the eastern edge of Docklands, to run beneath the bed of the Thames. Crossing from one side of London to the other is at present the least predictable of road journeys around a "circular" road which, in its southern section, is an ugly mixture of sometime suburban streets. Most rail travellers have not only to change trains, but to change stations as well. The Underground, for through passengers, is slow and subject to delays.

The M25, which was expected to attract traffic away from central London has generated its own local traffic and, anyway, adds so many miles to a through journey that even heavy lorries still choose more direct routes. Parts of west London are regularly blighted by plans for a west London relief road, and something similar is already sorely needed east of Tower Bridge to cope with the additional traffic to and from Docklands. An east-west link underground would pose no environmental problem and, so long as it was self-contained, would not add to the burden carried by central London roads.

If only one of the three projects is realized, it is heartening to find a large engineering concern thinking beyond the Channel Tunnel and anticipating the longer-term needs which the tunnel will foster if it is successful. That such ambitious projects should even be mooted is also a tribute to the present economic climate in Britain. Less than five years ago there were regular calls, and not only from the Opposition, for large-scale public works projects to provide employment. Now, new engineering projects are being initiated in the healthiest possible way: through public demand anticipated and met by private investment. That is as it should be.

## 'Economy with truth' in context

From Sir Robert Armstrong (life peer)

Sir, In his article today (December 31) John Winder revives once again my use of the phrase "economical with the truth" in the course of giving evidence in the Supreme Court of New South Wales last year.

As both you and I pointed out at the time, neither the concept nor the phrase was original when I used it: it has a pedigree going back at least to Edmund Burke.

But, if I am to be associated with it, it had better be in the right context. I did not say that I had been "economical with the truth" in my earlier evidence to the court. I used the phrase, as a kind of obiter dictum, to characterise a letter which I wrote to the Managing Director of Sidgwick and Jackson Ltd on March 23, 1981, asking for a copy of a book which his firm was about to publish, without disclosing that the Government had received an advance copy of the text of the book some weeks before.

I could not have disclosed that fact in the letter without putting at risk the confidentiality (which I was bound to preserve) of the circumstances in which and the source by which the advance copy was provided.

Might not a journalist, faced with a similar problem of source protection, have practised a similar economy? Yours faithfully, ROBERT ARMSTRONG (Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service), Cabinet Office, 70 Whitehall, SW1, December 31.

## Right and wrong

From Mr R. T. Oerton

Sir, In his article, "Goodbye, Lord Buryley" (December 29), David Walker recalls the code of conduct issued by Sir Robert Armstrong to Civil Servants after the Poincaré case, saying that it "rested firmly on this principle: to serve the State, he told his staff of officials, you must serve ministers unquestioningly and with the utmost energy no matter what your own views. There was no mystic higher authority called the Crown to which Civil Servants could owe allegiance."

In fairness to Sir Robert, his code, added that a Civil Servant "should not be required to do anything unlawful" (though if he is asked only to report the matter to a superior) and that if his orders "raise a fundamental issue of conscience" he may again consult a superior (though if they are not modified he must either obey them or resign and say nothing).

A Civil Servant at the time, I was privileged to receive a copy of this code and I remember thinking that its central contention had not gone down too well at Nuremberg. I need hardly add that there is a world of difference between the present (or any other) government of this country and the government of wartime Germany; but this difference is put at risk unless we are prepared, whether we are Civil Servants or not, to say that we will neither do nor conceal wrong at the behest of anybody. Yours faithfully, R. T. OERTON, 84 Buryley Road, NW5, December 29.

## Afghanistan solution

From Mr Peter Cadogan

Sir, The Soviet Ambassador draws attention (December 29) to the impending UN Cordovez talks and hopes they will be "not only fruitful but final". But these talks have been going on for years and have yielded neither fruit nor finality. There is no prospect of any improvement for the simple reason that the wrong people are involved.

A war can end two ways, either by the unilateral withdrawal of one side (as when the US pulled out of Saigon) or by negotiation between the belligerents. It cannot possibly be done vicariously and Mr Cordovez is certainly not the vicar of the Mujahidin.

Moscow has two options. The first is to withdraw unilaterally and take their Kabul agents with them; the second is to negotiate directly with the Resistance. The situation will not be soluble until one of these conditions is met and the war will continue until then. The next move is therefore up to the Russians.

Yours truly, PETER CADOGAN (Co-chairman, Anglo-Afghan Circle), 3 Finchbrook House, Greville Road, NW6, December 29.

## Property and tax

From Mr H. L. Smith

Sir, Your leader of December 19 rightly distinguishes between a charge for local government service and a poll tax and makes the point that houses do not vote or use schools, libraries etc. But houses do require access roads, sewerage, street lighting and the services of the planning, building control and cleansing departments of district councils.

It would be administratively simple and involve the Government in no loss of principle if it were to add a domestic services supplement to the community charge, payable only by householders. It could be levied in three bands, based on the average square footage of a small "semi" or council house — a modest de-

## Sarawak natives under threat

From Lord Shackleton

Sir, I would like to make an appeal on behalf of the native peoples of Sarawak whose way of life is threatened by the depredations of the logging companies. It is over 50 years since, as surveyor to the Oxford University expedition to Sarawak, along with Tom Harrison, I first came to know the "Orang Ulu" (the splendid people of the uplands and interior of Borneo).

Those were the days of the white Rajah Brooke, when the aboriginal people had almost total protection from exploitation of any kind. Indeed, Europeans were not generally allowed more than a few miles inland unless they were scientists or on government service. Only the occasional Chinese trader came up the rivers Baram and Tinjar.

Most of the tribal people we came to know best, the Kelabits, the Barawans, the Kayans and the Kenyahs and others, pursued a sophisticated slash-and-burn cultivation supported by hunting and fishing, but they only destroyed a fraction of the forest and that mainly secondary forest, as compared with the hundreds of thousands of acres of primary forest now already destroyed or under threat by the logging companies under state licences.

The destruction has notably accelerated since I visited Sarawak during the big Royal Geographical Society Mulu expedition in 1978 led by Robin Hanbury-Tenison, President of Survival Inter-

national, who are seeking to arouse the international conscience, particularly on behalf of the Penan.

It is the Penan who have led the protest and who are most threatened. They are simply forest-dwelling hunter-gatherers, most of whom live, not in long houses but in huts or shelters in the forest and are well attuned to the forest and its conservation.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dr Mahathir, now asserts that it is the Penan themselves who are to blame for the forest destruction in Sarawak, due to their extensive shifting cultivation; yet the Penan number only some 8,000 all told and shifting cultivation is not even part of their traditional economic practice.

Apart from the tragic human consequences of this policy, which has led to a number of arrests under the Internal Security Act, immense ecological damage is being done and perhaps in the long run even more serious to the ecology is the elimination of new species of unknown potential value to mankind through the destruction of the forest.

Changes will certainly come, but let it be at a pace and in a way that the Penan and other native peoples in Sarawak can themselves control and will cause minimum ecological damage.

Yours faithfully, SHACKLETON, Cleveland House, 19 St James's Square, SW1, January 4.

## NHS funding

From Professor Robert Weale

Sir, The Prime Minister repeated last Monday that modern advances in treatment raise the cost of the NHS. A solution is not to cut biomedical research but to ban it altogether. The boon would be twofold: the resultant savings could be transferred to the NHS. Yours (not very) sincerely, ROBERT WEALE, The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1, December 22.

From Mr Maurice Sutton

Sir, The pressure on the Government to rethink how the NHS is funded arises from the increasing cost of providing the service. Where you have a system in which treatment is dispensed by doctors who are not accountable for the expense it is inevitable that it will lead to soaring costs for medical treatment and demands for more money.

Introducing competition and allowing free market forces to operate is the usual method of controlling the cost and quality of services, but this is not easy to apply to medicine because the patient may not know what is good medicine; only a doctor can make that judgement.

What is required is a bonus system which rewards actual work and good medicine, combined with a scheme that penalises unnecessary use of medical facilities. The key to this is general practitioner referral to hospital, for they will refer their patients to the hospital which provides the best service in every sense.

In such a scheme the hospital would be a unit in competition with other hospitals. Salaries of hospital staff would be related to the number of patients referred to that hospital; an indication of its

merit in the eyes of general practitioners.

Offset against this would be a sum relating to the cost of providing medical treatment and so unnecessary and excessive use of medical facilities would reduce the salaries of doctors in that hospital, compared with another hospital where perhaps more selective use of facilities is practised. It would therefore pay doctors to practise first-class medicine without excessive use of medical facilities — and recruit like-minded colleagues.

The world's best health service, measured in terms of life expectancy of the population for money spent, is in Japan and that system is based on competition between hospitals.

Yours faithfully, MAURICE SUTTON (Director, Department of Radiotherapy and Oncology), North-Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton, N18.

From Mrs M. A. Herbert-Smith  
Sir, Not many people seem aware that a "B & B" charge already exists in NHS hospitals — certainly in east Dorset, where I spent several months in hospital three years ago. After the first few weeks my retirement pension book was taken from me and a deduction of £13 a week made, which I considered fair enough.

But it was talking to hear from the hospital office that the charge could only be made via a pension or other allowance book and other patients couldn't be forced to pay. This meant that it was the retired, widows or those on social security who paid, the very people Mr Newton (Minister for Health) proposes should be exempt.

Yours faithfully, M. A. HERBERT-SMITH, 28 Pevensy Road, St Leonard's-on-Sea, Sussex.

fails to find the culprit, it cannot by definition be full.

If the law is as now suggested by the tribunal, then the onus has to be on each of the innocent parties threatened with dismissal to prove their innocence, or be dismissed on mere suspicion.

How long before the police and the courts claim that this can apply in other fields too? "Innocent till proved guilty" would appear now to have finally died the death.

Yours faithfully, JAMES WENDON, Woodpeckers, Ford Lane, East Hendred, Wantage, Oxfordshire, December 21.

the only food in which air is the principal ingredient."

Whether it is also a triumph towards healthy eating is another matter.

Yours faithfully, JOHN YUDKIN, 20 Wellington Court, Wellington Road, St John's Wood, NW8, December 30.

## Witch report?

From R. J. Pearn

Sir, Your correspondent of December 31, a grandmother, received from her son-in-law a most unusual present, an axe, "to go with her broomstick".

My neighbour, also a grandmother, has over the last few years received from her son-in-law presents a lorry load of cow manure, a load of topsoil, and a concrete mixer. (She lays concrete well and is a very competent bricklayer).

Like your correspondent my neighbour has I am sure a broomstick. My garden is regularly invaded by pests and diseases, hers never. I use all the scientific aids; she does not. Evidently she has recourse to supernatural powers.

Yours sincerely, R. J. PEARN, Half Acre, Lymping, Folkestone, Kent, January 1.

## A new style of teacher lacking

From the Principal of Chelmsford College of Further Education

Sir, Mr Baker's ideas for recruiting teachers from redundant executives, retired police officers and former miners (report, December 29) leads to comment from the sector of education which has followed a similar policy of recruitment throughout its very existence.

I refer to further education colleges, which have encouraged and welcomed teaching staff from the industrial and business world for many years. The invaluable experience of such people has been utilised through part-time posts and through appointments of a full-time nature whenever suitable candidates have applied for advertised posts.

The great concern in the past five years has been the dearth of applicants from this source. There have been few or no applicants for such specialist areas as accountancy, computer studies, electronics, general engineering, construction, physics, mathematics. Competition of salaries, conditions and fringe benefits has worked against the colleges.

Yours truly, ROY JONES, Principal, Chelmsford College of Further Education, Dovecote, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, December 29.

## ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 5 1948

British and Dutch merchants traded with Burma from the 17th century. As Britain's power in India grew, her influence in Burma increased. After Labour won the election in 1945 the Prime Minister, C. R. Attlee, said that the Government would extend to Burma the policy adopted in India.

## REPUBLIC OF BURMA

POWER HANDED OVER RANGOON, Jan 4 — Sir Hubs Rames, last British Governor of Burma, sailed down-river from Rangoon in the cruiser Bi mingham to-day to the cheers of thousands of Burmese citizens who lined the wharves and riverbanks to bid farewell to the last representative of British rule.

A few hours earlier, as reported by King George VI, he had handed over authority to the first President of the Burmese Republic, Sao Shwe Thaik, at a solemn ceremony at Government House.

The Union Jack which had fluttered from the mast of the Assembly building, where a formal transfer of power took place in bright moonlight, then stowed on board the Bi mingham, on its way to Brit where it will be kept in the British Museum. In its place there flies the red, blue, and white star-spangled banner of the Burmese Republic.

Meanwhile, the Republic Cabinet met to take the oath of office, and Parliament ratified the treaty with Britain by overwhelming majority.

The transfer ceremony, claimed amidst a fanfare of trumpets, cannon-shells, and beating of ceremonial drums, taken place before dawn, with by about 2,000 people in a spacious floodlit lawn of Assembly building, inside heavily guarded Government Secretariat.

Soon after, in the bright Constituent Assembly hall, I indent Sao Shwe Thaik declared his assumption of office formally proclaimed the Constitution.

Members of the Asse after rising to sing the national anthem, observed a two-minute silence in memory of the dead Prime Minister, Aung and other leaders of Bur struggle for independence.

A march past ended the money and, as he stepped on dais, Sir Hubs had com his last act as British Govern Burma. Within two hours h off Burma soil.

Reuter.

## CEREMONY IN LOND

Sir Stafford Cripps, Chan of the Exchequer, represent Government at the celebr held in London yesterday.

Conveying the congrat of the Government, he "After a long association t parting company in frier and with the best of mutus will Burma is from to-d independent republic and Britain have done our b ease the difficulties and ex the processes of this rebi Burma as one of the nati the world. We can all ju pride in this accomplishment in the example of peacef tion which it sets to this tr world."

## BRITISH AMBASSA

Mr R. J. Bowker, C.M present High Commissio the United Kingdom in R is to be his Majesty's Ambassador to the Un Burma.



THE ARTS

Monkeying about in a mind field

Monkeys with Parkinson's Disease have been returned to normal life by transplanting into their brains globules of material from the brains of healthy monkey foetuses.

A Swedish human suffering from the same condition will soon benefit similarly from material supplied by a human foetus. This proto-person will not be consulted beforehand, but then neither were the adult monkeys - sentient, social beings - asked if they would like to be given Parkinson's Disease in the first place.

TELEVISION

**Horizon** (BBC2) opened its new season with a typically woolly blend of mild sensationalism and medical-ethical debate. Jonathan Miller - a notably brainy scientist who has made a film on the disease - opined that the fact that this debate is taking place at all proves that man is a moral creature.

But the real question is surely one of practical expediency: how to persuade public opinion of the value of robbing the very young dead in order to

improve the lot of the ageing semi-dead, or "corpses which the undertakers have forgotten to collect", in Dr Miller's acute phrase. Fortunately, the spectre of foetus-farming is remote.

The New Zealand "motion artist" Len Lye seems to have kept all his marbles until death, but viewers of *Doodie* (Channel 4) may be forgiven for wondering if some of them might have been slightly flawed.

After boning up on Freud, young Lye spent two years on Samoa absorbing the "old brain" art of the Polynesians. Arriving in London in the 1930s, he spent a further two years making a 10-minute monochrome animation film which had one public viewing. He then discovered the technique of painting colour directly on to film.

As this stimulating biography showed, Lye's use of colour was startling and cavalier - abstract art on the hoof, and a perfect complement to the jazz soundtrack. In this he was a forerunner of "underground" movies, hippy light-shows and pop videos.

Martin Cropper

Endless Parade

**Monday 10 January 7.45pm**  
The Fields of Sorrow  
Jenita: The Death of Orpheus  
On the sheer threshold of the night  
The Mask of Orpheus: Act 2  
The Manning soprano  
an Rigby mezzo-soprano  
Philip Langridge tenor  
BC Singers  
mes Wood conductor  
BC Symphony Orchestra  
gar Howarth & Paul Daniel  
conductors

**Monday 11 January 7.45pm**  
agocia  
ciet Theatre  
reses for Ensembles  
ndon Sinfonietta  
ter Edöwds conductor

**Tuesday 12 January 7.45pm**  
nata  
tr'actes and Sappho fragments  
agm ..  
ah Leonard soprano  
C Singers  
Symphony Ensemble  
non Joly conductor

**Wednesday 13 January 7.45pm**  
l Movement  
less Parade UK premiere  
th Dances  
an Hardenberger trumpet  
- Symphony Orchestra  
tr Edöwds conductor

Free films, talks, foyer music,  
n rehearsals and the composer  
self in conversation with John  
mmmond

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ial season ticket £18.00  
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Angels of charitable times

GALLERIES

The Painters of Camden Town  
Christie's

Childhood/  
Engraving Then  
and Now/  
Watercolours  
from Winchester  
College  
Sotheby's



Little angel: "The Child Enthroned", by Thomas Cooper Gocher, at Sotheby's

Post-Impressionist exhibition in London in 1910-11 had a tremendous, liberating effect on them, brightening their palette considerably and pushing them further over towards modernism: after all, Gore, Ginner and Gilman were working side by side with Wyndham Lewis and Epstein on the decorations for Madame Strindberg's avant-garde cabaret *The Cave of the Golden Calf* in 1912, and they did not seem for the moment to be pulling in contradictory directions.

Whether one chooses to look at the show in a perspective of English painterly tradition, essentially conservative for all the new tricks learnt from France, or in terms of the march of modern-

ism in Britain, the first thing which strikes the visitor is the sheer riot of colour. If the label of Camden Town suggests drabness, these paintings instantly give it the lie.

Perhaps the most consistently prismatic in their colouring, even when recording a prosaic cab-yard at night or a street at Chalk Farm, are Robert Blyan and his less-known but very interesting Polish-born wife Stanislava de Karlowa.

Gilman seems to show the most consistent development in his short working life (he succumbed to the flu epidemic of 1919), while Gore, at his best, can be the most heart-stopping painter of them all, developing very rapidly from quite dull beginnings to the dazzling works of his brief maturity (he died in 1914, at the age of 36). Ginner, with his clogged and tortured handling of paint, remains what he has always been: very much a matter of taste.

But the greatest pleasures at Christie's frequently come from the surprise of contact with admittedly lesser figures in the circle. Again and again one is stopped in one's tracks by the work of Malcolm Drummond: his amazingly modern-looking work "Coconut Sky", for instance, is perhaps the single most coverable painting in the show, but his "In the Cinema" of 1912-13 is an unforgettable image. Right next to it is another wonderful image of a cinema and its audience, this time Walter Bayes's monumental "Oratio Obliqua".

It is also rewarding to seek out such as Marjorie Sherlock, William Ratcliffe and Sylvia Gosse. And perhaps the most important thing of all: one never feels as though one is splashing around in the shallows of art. I would not claim that all of the Camden Town artists - or perhaps any of them - are of world-beating international class. But their art is very definitely the real thing. By choosing provincialism and cultivation of their own garden, they achieve universality with gratifying frequency.

The biggest show at Sotheby's this month is *Childhood*, a vast miscellany in aid of the Save the Children Fund (until January 27). Its effect is, as a friend remarked, osmotic. With just under a thousand exhibits, there is no way that one can take in each one individually, or even make many sensible points about the evolution of the image of childhood between the 16th century and our own time. But



"The Angel, Islington", by Charles Ginner, one of the Camden Town painters, at Christie's

on the other hand, spending an hour or two in these surroundings can be a very pleasant experience.

The pictures range from stuffy quaint portraits of Jacobean infants and family groups, through dashing 18th-century portraits of the aristocratic young, Victorian anecdotes, Thomas Cooper Gocher's once familiar "The Child Enthroned" (a besotted *fin-de-siècle* view) to Picasso's delightfully Degas-like "Fillette au chien" and beyond.

And while there you should not omit to take in the two smaller shows, *Engraving Then and Now* (until January 15) and *Watercolours from Winchester College* (until January 27). The first is a tribute to the Society of Wood

Engravers on its 50th birthday. Major artists such as Eric Gill and David Jones are strongly represented, but there is no perceptible falling-off in the work of young contemporaries who continue to swell the society's membership, and here too there are exciting rediscoveries to be made.

The Winchester watercolours come mainly from a collection given to the college in 1940, and its cross-section of the watercolour tradition includes Rowlandson, Dadd, Clausen and Rackham as well as the more conventionally expected figures. This show is in aid of the Winchester Cathedral Trust, and again the good cause does bring us a rare opportunity to see and enjoy.

John Russell Taylor

Little masterpiece: Picasso's delightfully Degas-like drawing "Fillette au chien"

JAZZ

Jazz Train II  
Bass Clef

the trumpeter, Paul Edmonds, promises great things.

Unfortunately, lack of rehearsal time prevented them from fulfilling their potential. Apparently unfamiliar with some of the newer arrangements, the horn players were dogged by a series of missed cues as they looked anxiously in the direction of Perrell. It took the forceful rhythm work

of bassist Mick Hutton and drummer Mark Taylor to help keep the performance on course.

Bellamy though was notably resourceful, opening *alto* solos in mid-sentence and then steering clear of the more familiar pop statements. Edmonds was more subdued, but still showed polish.

Vocalist Cleveland Watkins was less convincing, but seemed on surer ground when he returned to conventional singing on Horace Silver's "Sister Sadie" and Ellington's "Take the A-Train".

Clive Davis

Small wonders

CONCERT

Endymion  
Ensemble/  
Whitfield  
Wigmore Hall

A programme bringing together chamber works written in the early 1920s by Poulenc and Walton - independently, yet apparently guided by the same artistic credo - inevitably focused attention on the motivation of the French and English avant-garde of 60 years ago.

Flippant, minuscule (though exquisitely formed), and preferring the small change of music hall clichés to the complex courage of late romanticism, these little pieces seem redolent of a communal loss of nerve. They display an almost pathological abhorrence of substance, weight, emotion or argument.

But was this a reflection of economic stringencies, a backlash against the huge orchestral pieces of the pre-1914 era, or a reaction to that most grandiose, prolonged and horrific of human designs: the First World War?

This is something the listener must ponder afterwards.

for when pieces like Poulenc's epigrammatic Apollinaire song-cycle *Le Bestiaire* and the more pictorial Cocteau setting *Cocarde* are actually being performed the mind is completely absorbed by their technical brilliance and astonishing brevity.

This really is music for people who cannot concentrate for more than 20 seconds at a time: it even makes parts of Walton's *Fa-cade* sound over-extended.

*Fa-cade* formed the second half of this concert, nimbly declaimed by Prunella Scales and Ian Partridge (Miss Scales giving us a Cook's Tour of British accents), and effectively, if occasionally rather stiffly, played by the Endymion Ensemble under John Whitfield's direction.

The Poulenc half also yielded mixed results. Stephen Varcoe and Ian Partridge respectively did *Bestiaire* and *Cocarde* proud, and the playing had a stylish poise. Mark van de Wiel and John Whitfield were admirably rhythmic in the *Sonata for Clarinet and Bassoon*. But the equally pithy *Sonata for Horn, Trombone and Trumpet* received an unhappy performance. The trumpet player seemed to have lip fatigue.

Richard Morrison

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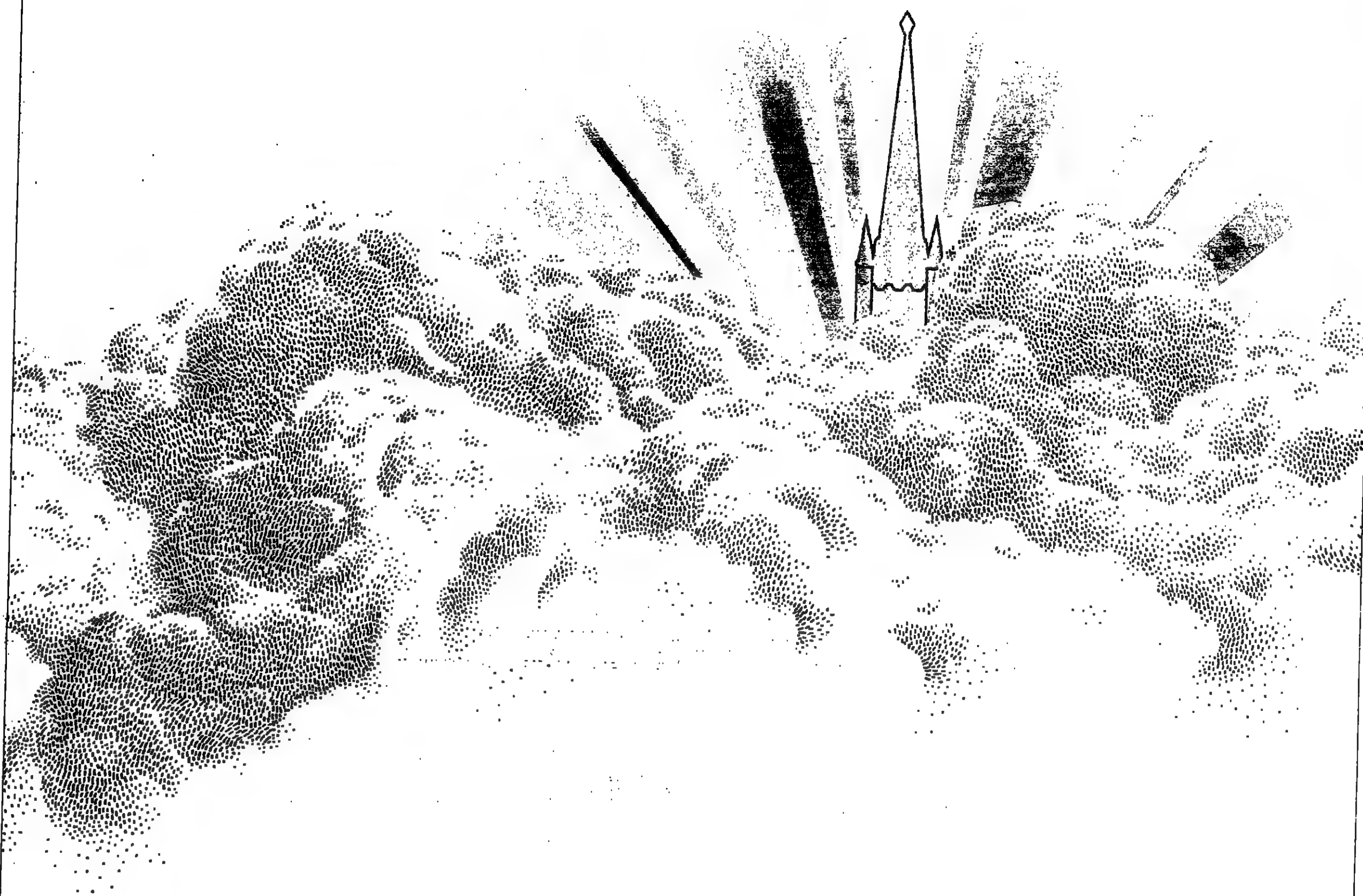
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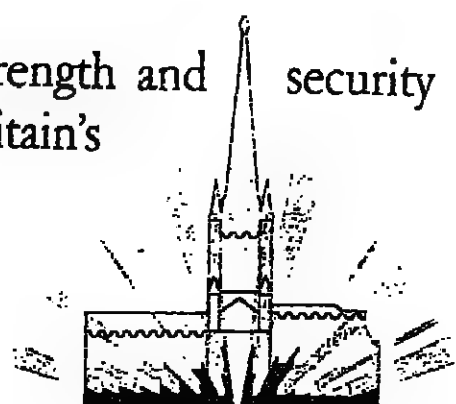
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## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

#### Standings

January 4: The Queen was represented by Colonel Martin Gibbs (Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Gloucestershire) at the Memorial Service for Sir Peter Scarlett (formerly Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Oslo) which was held in Christ Church, Cheltenham, this afternoon.

The Queen celebrated his birthday today.

The Grand Duke of Luxembourg celebrates his birthday today.

The King of Spain celebrates his birthday today.

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## Science report

# Roaring helps the mating season

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

An experiment on red deer in New Zealand has shown that the recorded roars of a rutting male deer are enough to bring a female into heat.

The finding was made by Dr Karen McComb, of the large animal research group, in the department of zoology, at Cambridge University.

Her results published in a report to the journal *Nature* note that scientists had previously determined that the smells and actions of a stag could hasten the onset of a doe's oestrous cycle.

But Dr McComb's experiment marks the first time oestrous in a mammal has been artificially induced by sound alone.

In the experiment, she used 128 female deer raised in captivity on a New Zealand farm. The herd was divided into three groups, all of which were exposed to fertile males after an initial preparation period.

The first group was initially prepared only by the recorded sound of males roaring every 30 seconds or so. A second group was exposed to both the recorded roaring and the presence of a vasectomized but rutting male whose actions were the same as those of a fertile male.

A control group was isolated from both males and the recorded roaring

during the preparation period.

When the three groups were brought together with fertile, rutting males, it became evident that the recorded roaring alone had significantly accelerated the oestrous, mating and calving of females exposed to it.

Dr McComb surmises that male red deer that are able to sustain roaring longer than other males have an important reproductive advantage.

A doe's biological response to the roaring may also benefit her, by ensuring her that an eligible male is nearby before she initiates oestrous, which lasts only 24 hours.

## Lord Samuel leaves £26m

Baron Samuel of Wych Cross, of Wych Cross Place, Forest Row, East Sussex, and London NW8, the property developer who built up Land Securities Investment Trust (which he acquired for about £20,000 in 1944) to become the biggest property company in the world, left estate valued at £26,186,651 net.

He left his collection of paintings by Dutch and Flemish artists to his wife Edna for life and then to the City of London, to be retained as a permanent collection in the Mansion House, with the wish it be called the Samuel Collection.

He left his collection of architectural drawings to the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Mr Cecil Harmsworth King, of Donnybrook, Dublin, former chairman of the Mirror Group and a substantial influence in Fleet Street for many years, and a nephew of Alfred Harmsworth, first and last Viscount Northcliffe, father of the British popular newspaper, left estate valued at £1,303,627.

Mr Kenneth Henry Whitaker, of Telford, Farnham, Surrey, left estate valued at £2,679,478 net.

Mrs Violet Evelyn Ivy Suzanne Green, of Orchard House, Limes Lane, Buxted, East Sussex, who died on Aug. 15th last, left estate valued at £1,417,625 net.

Other estates include that of the late Mrs Kathleen Mary of Beckenham, Kent, £215,369; Mrs Kenneth George, of Little Cornard, Suffolk, £184,843; Mrs Miss Rachel, of Margate, Kent, £178,781.

## Luncheon

Mr F J Plasket, director general of the Road Haulage Association, was the principal speaker at the 37th luncheon of the Coal Industry Society at the Park Lane Hotel yesterday. He was introduced by Lord Ezra of Horsman. There were 72 members and guests in attendance and Mr W A Dunn was in the chair.

Mr R P Taylor and Miss V E J Clay. The engagement is announced between Robin, youngest son of the late Mr Richard Taylor and of Mrs Taylor, of Grange Farm, Bourn, Cambridgeshire, and Virginia, elder daughter of Sir Richard Clay, Bt, and Lady Clay, of de Freville Avenue, Cambridge.

Mr J W Adhead and Miss L A Harrison. The engagement is announced between William John, youngest son of the late Mr J W Adhead and Mrs S Adhead, of Highgate, and Lucy Anne, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J C Harrison, of Shoreham-by-Sea.

Mr V W Armon-Tilley and Miss J E Freyke. The engagement is announced between Vaughan, son of Mr and Mrs William Armon-Tilley, of Cobham, Surrey, and the full names of those members of their family who require vouchers and their ages if between 16 and 25 years. In addition they may also apply for their children (16 to 25 years) who have not been granted Royal Enclosure vouchers previously. They will require a sponsor who has been present in the Royal Enclosure for at least eight previous years. Vouchers, if granted, will be valid for the Friday only of the Royal Meeting and should be applied for before March 31.

In the enclosure ladies will wear formal day dress with a hat, which must cover the crown of the head, and gentlemen will wear morning dress with top hat, or service dress.

Mr D M Cavallero and Miss A C Westcott. The engagement is announced between David, second son of Mr and Mrs E L Cavallero, of Freshford, Bath, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J D Westcott, of Limpsley Stoke, Bath.

Mr P S Foster and Miss C Nydegger. The engagement is announced between Paul Swinley, son of Mr and Mrs M S Foster, of Barnes, London, and Chantal, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs W Nydegger, of Zurich.



Eleven members of the Baden-Powell family together at the 16th World Scouting Jamboree at Wollongong, Australia. Nine are direct descendants of the Scouting founder, Mr Gervas and Mrs Betty Clay, seated, are surrounded by, from bottom left, Adam, Olivia, Nigel and Gerard Baden-Clay and Alex, David, Michael, Joan and Miles Baden-Powell.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr D A Ennis and Miss L A Woodhouse. The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs D J Ennis, of Brighton, Sussex, and Linda, elder daughter of Mr I W Woodhouse, of Tokyo, Japan, and Mrs N J Boisseau, of Dunsfold, Surrey.

Mr J H Cooper and Miss T C B Bowles. The engagement is announced between Trevor, second son of the late Mr S P C Cooper and Mrs W G Cooper, of Bromley, Kent, and Trudi, only daughter of Mr Andrew Bowden, MBE, MP, and Mrs B Bowden, of Brighton, Sussex.

Mr K J Glyn and Miss F H Wainwright. The engagement is announced between Kieran Joseph, eldest son of Mr and Mrs B J Glyn, of Mount Merrion, Dublin, and Faith Helen, daughter of Commander B H Wainwright, OBE, Royal Navy (ret), and Mrs B H Wainwright, of Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire.

Mr G A Jones and Miss J E Clements. The engagement is announced between Gareth Andrew, only son of Mr and Mrs A G C Jones, of Woking, Surrey, and Joanna Elizabeth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J R H Clements, of Chertsey, Wiltshire.

Mr P M S King and Miss J M Wilson. The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr R M King, of Highgate, London, and Mrs D King, of Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire, and Jane, daughter of Captain and Mrs C D Wilson, of Earls Common, Worcestershire.

Mr J B McCallum and Miss L G Gommers. The engagement is announced between Justin, second son of Mrs Judith McCallum and of the late Mr Neil McCallum, of Newbury, Berkshire, and Louise, only daughter of Dr and Mrs E Maxwell Gommers, of Newbury, Berkshire.

Major M R C Outhwaite and Miss S E Hipwell. The engagement is announced between Mark Outhwaite, RTR, eldest son of Captain and Mrs Brian Outhwaite, of Westbourne, Emsworth, Hampshire, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Hipwell, of Alford, Dorset.

Mr K C Pryke and Miss L G Willis. The engagement is announced between Kellian, son of Mr D W Pryke, of Diss, Norfolk, and Mrs J A Selby-Green, of Titcher, East Sussex, and Lisa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Willis, of Wadhurst, East Sussex.

Mr L M McL. Pearson and Miss A H Pelly. The engagement is announced between Ian Mark McLaren, elder son of Mr and Mrs M J S Pearson, of Shelford, Nottinghamshire, and Alexandra Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs D C Pelly, of Haslemere, Surrey.

Mr R J W T MacClancy and Miss S F Peretz. The engagement is announced between Roderic, son of Dr and Mrs John MacClancy, of Leichworth, Hertfordshire, and Sandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Peretz, of Kenilworth, Illinois, United States.

Mr D S Temporal and Miss J S Martin. The engagement is announced between David Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs R P Temporal, of Bray, Berkshire, and Jennifer Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Martin, of Collingham, Yorkshire.

Mr R J D Watts and Miss A S Larsen. The engagement is announced between Robert Justin Devens, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Watts, of Wympshill, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, and Annie Sabina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Sven-Olof Larsen, of Boden, Sweden.

Mr N J Woolard and Miss S E Fuller. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Duncan Woolard, of Bangor, Maine, United States, and Susan, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Fuller, of Llancafryn, South Glamorgan.

## OBITUARY

### M GASTON EYSKENS

Major Belgian post-war statesman



M. Gaston Eyskens, five times Prime Minister of Belgium, and his country's leading Roman Catholic politician during most of the post-war period, died on January 3. He was 82.

He will, perhaps, be best remembered as the Premier who ended his country's control of the Belgian Congo — now, Zaire — on June 30, 1960.

Born at Liège, in Flanders, on April 1, 1905, Eyskens was perfectly bi-lingual in Dutch and French, a signal advantage in a country constantly beset by linguistic disputes. His father was a textile merchant, but Gaston showed early promise of academic distinction, graduating in economics at Louvain University, and taking further courses at universities in London, Geneva, Columbia, and Chicago.

He was appointed professor of economics at Louvain in 1931, and was the author of several important economic studies, including one, in 1929, on the port of New York.

His political career began in 1934, when he became *chef de cabinet* to the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance, and in 1939 he was elected to the Chamber of Representatives, of which he remained a member until 1965, when he transferred to the Senate.

Active in the Resistance during the Second World War, Eyskens took a leading part in the transformation of the former Catholic Party into the Social Christian Party, in which he aligned himself with the Christian Trade Union section. In 1945, he was appointed to the key post of

Finance Minister, and set about completing the drastic financial reforms which his predecessor, M. Gutt, had conceived in exile.

He held ministerial posts in successive governments until 1949, when he himself became Prime Minister of a centre-right coalition. It fell to this government to organize a referendum on March 12, 1950 — on the return of Leopold III, who had remained in exile since 1945 as a result of criticism of his surrender to the Germans during the war.

The referendum produced a vote of 57 per cent in favour of the King, but he was opposed by a majority of French-speaking Belgians. Eyskens concluded that Leopold's position was untenable.

Eyskens was, however, unable to prevent his own government from breaking up over the issue, and he resigned a week later. He soon returned to office as Minister for Economic Affairs, but was not Prime Minister again until 1958, when he formed a

purely Catholic Government. This Government was notable for ending the century-old dispute over Catholic and State education. Eyskens also signed the agreement which ceded independence to the Belgian Congo, which had less happy consequences.

He resigned following the swing to the left in the 1961 election, but was returned as Prime Minister in 1968. This time he had the task of steering Belgium through the serious language riots which led to the splitting up of Louvain University into separate Dutch- and French-speaking institutions.

This Government also took the initial steps which led to the subsequent devolution of power to the Flanders and Wallonia regions in 1980, though the proposal to make Brussels a third self-governing region was never fully implemented.

Eyskens remained as Prime Minister until January, 1973. In the following year he retired from politics, and became President of the Krijtbank, the largest bank in Flanders.

Gaston Eyskens was small in stature, but was much respected for his clear judgment, and his few enemies, even among his political opponents. Very much the possessor of a cool exposition of complex issues, Nye Bevan's famous description of Gaitskill — "a desiccated calculating machine" — could have been applied to him.

He married, in 1931, Gilberte de Petter, who died several years ago. His son, Marc Eyskens, currently Finance Minister, was also Prime Minister for a short period in 1981.

He was the author of hundreds of plays and features, almost all of them broadcast on the Third Programme (now, Radio 3). Among his plays were *The Wakeful Shepherd*, *Play and The Play of Noah* (1947-8), and *Lilith* (1950). Among his most famous adaptations were Chaucer's *The Parliament of Fowles* (1958) and *The Defence*, from a novel by Nabokov.

But any feature or production by Terence Tiller was as good as a guarantee that thousands of intelligent listeners would switch on for it. He may be said to have been a member of that select band who advanced the art of radio.

He was fond of, and knowledgeable about, a host of things, but especially about music and chess. He edited the Penguin Chess Treasury of the Air (1966).

He is survived by his wife, Doreen, and their two daughters.

MR JOHN ASTOR

Viscountess Chewyn writes: I worked with John Astor (obituary, December 29) as chairman and president of the Newbury constituency and knew him well as a friend.

In his ten years as Conservative MP for Newbury, he showed the qualities of a man dedicated to the service of his constituents, of Parliament, and of his country.

He took enormous trouble with the problems of all those who sought his help, at a time when "surgeries" were unknown; and many friends he made, came to know and appreciate the kindness, sincerity and modesty of a very special man.

Mr Chin Sophospanich, who died in Bangkok on January 2, at the age of 77, was influential in guiding Thailand's post-war economy through his Bangkok Bank, which he founded in 1944.

Miss Margot Bryant, who played a mild-mannered, cat-loving character called Minnie Caldwell, in the long-running television serial *Coronation Street*, died on New Year's Day. She was 90.

In real life, however, it appears that she was anything but mild-mannered; but she and her fictional character did have in common a fondness for furry friends.

The daughter of a Hull doctor, Miss Bryant began her stage career as a chorus girl in pantomime. She also danced in the Fred Astaire stage show, "Stop Flirting".

Her first appearance in *Coronation Street* was in the third episode, and she surfaced in 560 episodes thereafter, leaving the serial in 1976 after sixteen years. Towards the end of her stint, it was said, she suffered from amnesia, and had difficulty in learning her lines.

She never married.

Schools news

King's College School, Windsor. Spring Term begins today, January 5. Mr John Inverarity, Vice-Principal of Pembroke School, Adelaide, joins the senior common room for two terms in exchange with Mr Gordon McGinn. A concert to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the junior school will be held on March 13 at St. John's, Smith Square. The school play, *Hubert Corpus* by Alan Bennett, takes place on March 17-19, in Great Hall. Term ends on March 25. A study for those who left King's between 1965 and 1969 is to be held on Friday, April 22. Old Boys who are not in touch with the O.K.C. should contact the head master's secretary for details.

## Blasting themselves a link with the world outside

By Charles Kneivitt  
Architecture Correspondent

Almost 10,000 feet up in the Karakoram mountains of north Pakistan, 280 families are camped out in tents as they dynamite a single-track road out of solid rock that will link them to the rest of the world.

Situated in the Shishal valley, near the borders of China and Afghanistan, the 1,100 villagers are a three-day walk across five river crossings and a major glacier from the Karakoram Highway, the 500-mile metalled road which follows the old Silk Route linking China to the sub-continent.

The new road is just one of more than 500 small infra-structure projects being supported in the Northern Areas of Gilgit, Chitral and Balistan by the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme.

The Aga Khan, spiritual leader of more than 12 million Ismaili Muslims in 25 countries, visited Shishal by army helicopter last month. He was on a two-week fact-finding tour as the programme celebrates its fifth anniversary.

Ironically, AKRSP at first turned down financial support for the new road, which was estimated to cost more than eight million Rupees (about £250,000) as impractical. The villagers started it themselves, regardless, and now they are about six miles along the planned 30 mile route. It will take another three years to complete.

The Aga Khan's programme is revolutionizing the lives of the subsistence farmers of north Pakistan. Apart from new roads, the projects include irrigation and small-scale hydro-electric generation.



Villagers gather to greet the Aga Khan on his two-week fact finding tour of Shishal.

Through the programme, villages are encouraged to organize themselves, generate capital and start saving schemes, and learn new skills. They decide their own priorities and then, with AKRSP advice, devise how they are going to go about achieving their objectives.

Self-help underlines all the work, as well as being a central tenet of the Ismaili faith. This branch of Islam requires the Imam (the present Aga Khan, Prince Karim, is the 49th in direct succession to the Prophet Muhammad) to look after the







## FASHION by Liz Smith

## Antifreeze chic: how to...



You don't have to look like an Arctic explorer to stay warm in winter — as the Princess of Wales has shown thermal underwear can be chic as well as practical. Add the season's top notes — the hat, the cowl or serape — and let yourself glow...



Above: Striped long-sleeved spencer in lace-trimmed Thermolactyl rib, blue/white or pink/white, £7.98; matching longjohns, £7.98; Damart, 236 Regent Street, W1; Birmingham; Brighton; Bristol; Edinburgh; Glasgow; mail order from Damart, Bingley X, West Yorkshire, BD96 1AD  
Centre: Cream ribbed vest and matching bikini briefs in thermal polyester and viscose, also in black, £8.99 the set, Next, 54-60 Kensington High Street, W8, and selected branches  
Top right: Cropped lace-trimmed "Madonna" vest, £5.99; matching briefs, £3.25; black with cream spots or cream with black; Knickerbox, 69 Fleet Street, EC4; Royal Exchange, Manchester; Central Station, Glasgow; and branches  
Bottom right: Lace-trimmed silk, wool and Thermolactyl rib chemise with ribbon straps in ivory only, £11.99; matching French knickers, £8.50; Damart, stockists as before

Illustrations: JOHN SAEBAGE

Next



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## Worn to be warm

Dressed in your latest designer suit and wearing your most flattering hat you can still make a fashionable faux pas. As the Princess of Wales discovered long ago, if you do not feel comfortable you can never look chic. Underneath her silk dress, she revealed some winter back, she was wearing Damart's thermal underwear to keep warm.

For years Damart, the company who introduced thermals to this country 23 years ago, had depended on the endorsement of more rugged image makers like Chris Bonington and the explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes. They had even enlisted a psychologist to promote the "cuddle factor" of the warm cocoon provided by their thermals. They wanted to be rid of the passion-killer image that cosy bloomers had acquired. With the endorsement of the Princess of Wales, Damart discovered they had star appeal.

The Damart catalogue today is a hymn to the benefit of a snug, super-protective but totally man-made fibre, Thermolactyl. Wool is denounced as being clammy. It absorbs moisture, they say, and unlike Thermolactyl ends up trapping cold, not warmth next to the skin. Even the static charge you get at the touch of their man-made fibre is extolled as a virtue, although their claim that Thermolactyl literally "glows with warmth" seems a rather desperate piece of promotional copy-writing.

Damart's customers around the globe are served by their shops as well as their flourishing but comfortably old-fashioned mail order catalogue which helps unravel the code of the famous red-hot lightning flashes that appear on Damart's labels.

Two flashes indicate lightweight insulation; three mean a slightly heavier weave, such as interlock wool, say, by dancers to keep muscles supple. And so on, up to the heavy-duty five flash double force underwear, brushed to an extra fleeciness and sufficiently tough and elemental to keep Fiennes's Trans-

Global expedition snug. For their new sophisticated market, Damart have expanded their range to include prettier lace-trimmed camisoles and briefs, slips and the teddy (an all-in-one cami-brief). Last year they introduced a range in silk, or rather with 15 per cent silk added to the Thermolactyl fibre, so successful that it now includes a nightdress at £29.95, a teddy at £16.99 and a short-sleeved vest for £12.99.

Since the word thermal simply describes the way a fabric is woven to trap warm air between layers of fibres, any combinations of silk, wool, cotton, polyester or viscose can provide the same insulation. Marks & Spencer have their own thermal range in ribbed polyester, made into fashionable and snug bodysuits, vests and leggings. Prices start at £1.99 for thermal bikini briefs.

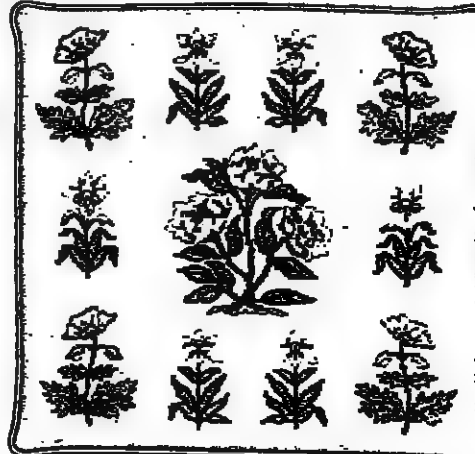
Next include thermals in their lingerie range too, with a polyester and viscose vest and knickers set for £8.99 and a long-sleeved buttoned-front top and leggings set for £24.99.

Viloft, the thermal fibre introduced by Courtaulds in 1980, is now used by the mass market underwear knitters in winter ranges. The Jockey line for men and women include thermal T-shirts at £7.50 which are popular with skiers.

Not exactly thermal, but an equally comforting and far more luxurious way to stay warm is inside Hanro's pure silk layers or their cashmere and wool leggings. The Hanro range is available from Bradleys, 85 Knightsbridge, London SW1, who also offer a mail order service. Prices run from £38.95 each for silk long johns and long-sleeved tops, to £44.35 for a similar set in cashmere and wool.

## IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM EHRMAN TAPESTRY

The Victoria & Albert Museum has, among its many treasures, a very fine collection of Indian miniatures and manuscripts. We chose the flowers painted in the border of a Mughal manuscript c.1630 as the basis for this lovely tapestry cushion. The flowers in light pinks and peach are on a choice of background colour, either dusty marine blue or ivory.



The design measures 16" x 16" and is worked in half-cross stitch. It is printed in the full nine colours: raspberry, pale green, English rose, black, a faded and a flesh pink, oakleaf green, flame and powder blue on either a marine blue or ivory background. The canvas is 12 holes to the inch and the kit comes complete with all the required yarns from the Appleton tapestry range, needle and instructions. All for £19.95 which for such a generous sized cushion represents excellent value. Use FREEPOST — No stamp needed.

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T.M.L/88



FASHION

# ...put on a warmer front

## Bring out the bloom

In winter, even the most dewy English rose loses its bloom. Skin changes as sluggish weather and central heating take their toll, which is nothing that a brisk walk and a night's sleep cannot remedy. But the crisp air, however, protection is needed to cut the chill, in the shape of the essential snug hat, muffler — and an upturned collar.

When choosing clothes for warmth, many of us display a surprising natural flamboyance. You only have to look at photographs of wintry scenes in Russia to see how stylish a hat invariably looks when worn for practical, rather than purely decorative, reasons. A *chapka*, a fur hat with earflaps, is part of life there and worn unthinkingly. Even when the wind is not blowing from the direction of the steppes, an otherwise conservative dresser becomes adventurous in cold weather and feels inspired to put to practical use an assortment of sturdy items acquired over the years. A pair of Peruvian mittens is dug out from the boot cupboard. A muffler in some marvellous marled-tweed wool is wound several times inside a collar.

Hair is tidied up flatteringly under a hat, and it is a fact that the hat worn for practical purposes is the sort that gets better and better as it gets broken in. Herbert Johnson, the traditional hatters in Old Burlington Street, London, provide the classic *chapka* as well as many knitted hats, fake-fur Crockett headbands and one sleek number in black rabbit fur, priced £65, which they call the Raisa.

Cossack toques in lamb's fur cost £30 at Herbert Johnson and have muffs, £45, and gloves, £25, to match. In Selfridges you will find a sheepskin flying hat, priced £29, in the fashion department, and a woolly cap with ear flaps at £10.95 in menswear. House of Fraser stores sell the longest knitted Noddy hat ever, a tube of angora long enough to drape as a muffler, fastened on a hatband, at £14.99. Their cashmere mufflers, plain or in bold dogtooth checks cost £45, and the Mithras, a giant mohair scarf, is £36.99.

Big stores are usually well-stocked with matching scarves and gloves, and this year you will find fashionable cowls. Lord's in London's Burlington Arcade provide a detachable ribbed collar with one simple round-neck style. Shrin, the luxurious cashmere emporium at 51 Beauchamp Place, London SW3, stock cowls in bright colours as well as black, grey and brown, at £65; they also sell cashmere gloves, plain or embroidered, price £40. Shrin also offer a mail order service.

Dressing for comfort is chic this winter. The scarf draped like a fichu over a coat, the serape flung with a nice sense of drama across a jacket, the comfortable cowl collar, the deep turtleneck, all play a starring role in fashion's current flirtation with glamour, but it need be nothing more complicated than a large scarf, folded into a triangle and worn swathing shoulders and crossed over the breast. Fen-



wick, always fast to follow trends, sell a knitted cowl, £11.95, which is loose enough to twist twice into a collar or wear slung around the shoulders. It is available by mail order from Fenwick's scarf department at 65 New Bond Street, London W1.

Skin needs special attention at this point in the season with enriched moisturizers to protect against chafing cold. Boots No 7, recognizing the ravages of the climate, introduced a Seasonal Skin Supplement (£6.95), a moisturizer to be massaged in gently. The massage tones up circulation too. Apply each morning for a fortnight and, from then, on alternate days. Masks and exfoliating preparations prime the skin to absorb moisture effectively by sloughing away surface skin debris and declogging pores, but check the formulations and choose one suited to your skin type.

The Body Shop stores nationwide provide invigorating masks to buff up a winter complexion. Their Camomile Face Mask is suitable for young, oily skin; Rose Refining Mask is a richer emollient for drier, older skin; Aloe Peel-Off Mask is recommended for sensitive skin; (each Body

Shop face mask £1.95 for 50ml tube).

Chanel's Masque Creme Hydroprotecteur (£13 for a 75ml tube), a mask that you leave on for 10 minutes and rinse off with warm water, primes skin to retain essential moisture, and keeps make-up looking fresher. Vichy's new Aqua-Tendre Gentle Facial Scrub (£4.25 for a 50ml pack) is a toning fine-grained gel that deep-cleanses and unblocks pores.

The boffins at Helena Rubinstein blind us with scientific formulae of filmogenic polymer and glycolins in their new moisturizing cream and gel, in the Performance H<sub>2</sub>O range. It comes in three strengths of moisture that are given index numbers like a sunscreen; the creams (from £12.95 for 40ml tube) are numbers 4 and 7; the gel (£17.50, jar only) provides total hydration.

Kanebo do a Bio Skin Care line that includes a Self Timing Mask (£19 for 75g tube) to be used once or twice a week. Using anthemile (a camomile extract), glycerine plus a UV screen, Pure & Simple skincare products include a Gentle Polishing Scrub (£2.29

for 50ml tube) to stimulate skin cells.

Beauty expert Joan Price firmly believes in the protective effects of a well-chosen foundation. "Women get obsessive about picking a night cream. A good foundation, worn all day, moisturizes and most have the added protection of a UV screen," she says. In her own beauty salons in winter, (the Face Place has two London branches, 33 Cadogan Street, SW3, and 31 Connaught Street, W2) Price recommends a deep-cleansing treatment using the mild electric current of cathodermie, which makes skin more permeable to applied moisture. A one and a half hour cathodermie facial costs £18.50. Price's favourite clarifying masks are Lander's Rose Refining Mask, £9.50, and Clarins Purifying Plant Mask, £8.75, or their Hydratant Masque for older skin.

Clarins Skin Firming Concentrate (£16 for 30ml bottle with pump dispenser) makes big claims for its plant-based formula. It includes such unscientific ingredients as horse chestnut, pineapple, ginseng and aloe, which, it says, speeds up cell action and makes skin feel more taut and sleek.

Above: Ribbed pillbox hat in shocking pink wool, £21; matching cowl collar tiling neckline, £21; Herbert Johnson, 13 Old Burlington Street, W1; or mail order. Leather jacket, £199, from a selection, House of Fraser stores.

Above right: Fake beaver trimmed brown felt hat, £95, Susanna Wood from The Shoe Shop, 15-17 Brompton Arcade, SW1; Lisa Miller, 490a Kings Road, SW10. Camel and cream banded cashmere serape, £225, reduced from £450, Valerie Louthar; faux cashmere gloves, from £35; all Lord's, 70 Burlington Arcade, W1; and by mail order.

Right: Rip Van Winkle tasseled cap in cream Aran wool, £25.50; matching fringed gauntlet gloves, £36.50; artwork from Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW3; Jones, 13 Floral Street, WC2; 72 Kings Road, SW3; The Changing Room, 8 High Street, Tooting, Surrey. Sheepskin and leather coat, with hood, £685, Ally Capellino from The Beauchamp Place Shop, 37 Beauchamp Place, SW3; Helen Hayes, 32 The Terrace, Barnes, SW13; Ich Ni Sari, 123 Candlergoss, Glasgow.

Hair: Paul Mising. Make-up: Debbie Bunn. Photographs: STEVIE HUGHES

## Silly question

Among the things Downing Street wanted to know when offering *Anita Roddick*, founder of the Body Shop cosmetics chain, an OBE in the New Year Honours, one, in particular, amused her: Is she about to retire? "Ha! My work is so much fun. This is just the beginning," Roddick told me from her rambling holiday house near Ballater, Scotland, where she was celebrating Hogmanay.

The old year being piped out saw the Body Shop reach a turnover of £17.5 million. At the end of 1987 the company that she founded with her husband, Gordon, in 1976 with a £4,000 loan was named Company of the Year. With

198 franchised branches in 31 countries, the Body Shop, based in Littlehampton, West Sussex, generates not simply annual pre-tax profits of more than £3 million but a refreshing no-nonsense attitude to the cosmetics business.

"Money is so corrosive," Roddick says. "The cosmetic industry has to be broken to more humane attitudes." Her ecologically-sound and sensibly priced cosmetics have proved a money-spinner. But in the process she has created 3,000 jobs in this country as well as providing work in Third World villages. Wooden serrated rollers, the sort used for therapy for tired feet, are currently handcrafted by boys



Bright futures: Roddick

clubs in southern India. Tibetan refugees are being trained to manufacture paper for Body Shop packaging. Proceeds from the many talks she is invited to make go towards research on a pet project, START, to help St Stephen's Hospital, London, in the treatment of skin diseases.

The new year will see the launch of Body Shop in the US in July, the fruit of her husband's recent efforts. Negotiations with the Japanese are in progress. "Russia must be the great comp," she says. "It is not a question of setting it up for them, but explaining to the Russians how they can do it for themselves."

## Leading to an honour

The strong brand of leadership imposed by Barry Reed on the fortunes of Austin Reed, the company founded by his grandfather in 1900, as well as his chairmanship of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, was rewarded by the CBE. Exports of Austin Reed's manufacturing division now total £12 million a year. "Not bad for a street retailer," says its chairman.

## Hebe's sharpness

"Fashion is society. Fashion is business. Fashion is personality." As fashion editor of the *International Herald Tribune* from the mid-Sixties, Hebe Dorsey, who died in Paris on December 27 aged 62, took her readers on the rounds of international fashion shows as if they were society events. "Hebe did not miss a trick," John Fairchild, editor of the fashion bible *Women's Wear Daily*, said. "She invented the idea of reviewing shows like a play, but she always did it with a razor, not a knife." Next Monday she was due to receive an Oscar for "excellence in international fashion reporting" from the Council of Fashion Designers of America.



## SALE

All Ready-to-Wear and a selection of fashion handbags at the Chanel Boutiques will be substantially reduced from Monday January 11th-Saturday 16th.

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## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

## BOOKING KEY

\* Seats available  
\* Returns only  
(D) Access for disabled

## THEATRE

## LONDON

**ACTING STARS:** Ian McKellen plays Hamlet, Fastball, Romeo, Juliet and many more in award-winning solo show. All proceeds to the London Light House AIDS Hospice. Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (01-839 4401). Tuba: Entertainment. Mon-Thurs 9-10pm, Fri and Sat 8-10pm. 5-11pm. £4-14.

**BACK WITH A VENGEANCE:** Dame Edna Everage back again joshing the possums. Strand Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-839 4401). Tuba: Entertainment. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8-11pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, £5-17.50.

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST:** New version in road style by David Cragan. Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, E15 (01-53 0310). Tuba: Entertainment. Mon-Sat 7.15-9.15pm, mat Sun 2.15-4.15pm, £5-15.50, children £1.50-4.

**BELLS ARE RINGING:** Lesley Mackie in Julie Stynes's tune-packed musical. Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, SE10 (01-855 7755). Tuba: Entertainment. Mon-Sat 7.15-9.15pm, mat Sun 2.30-5.30pm, £5-10.

**BLACK HERCULES IN THE HALL OF FAME:** Substant musical show featuring black heroes down the ages. Astoria Theatre, 157 Chancery Lane, WC2 (01-839 4401). Tuba: Entertainment. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.30pm, mat Sun 2.30-5.30pm, £5-10.

**DREAMS OF SAN FRANCISCO:** Five-woman play by Jacqueline Holmstrom, set to confirm the high promise of last year's *Golden Girls*. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-745 3338). Tuba: Entertainment. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.30pm, mat Sun 2.30-5.30pm, £5-10.

**EASY VIRTUE:** Revival of early Coward comedy-drama: the woman with a past and a scandalously young husband. Large cast includes Jane Hogg, Amy Angers, Ronnie Stevens. King's Head Theatre, 115 Upper Street, N1 (01-226 1818). Tuba: Entertainment. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.30pm, mat Sun 2.30-5.30pm, £5-10.

**THE FOREIGNER:** Nicholas Aspinall as a timid tourist in the US struck dumb with nerves. Albany Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-839 3878). Tuba: Entertainment. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.30pm, mat Sun 2.30-5.30pm, £5-10.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST:** Dame Helen Bracken as a young woman who has lost her virginity. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford (0789 255253). Tonight 7.30-10pm, £5-15.50.

**THE JAW OF THE JAW:** New production of Marlowe's tragedy, directed by Barry Kyle. Swan Theatre, Stratford (0789 255253). Tonight 7.30-10pm, £5-15.50.

## TOP 10 UK SINGLES

- (1) Always on My Mind...Pat Shop Boys, Parlophone
- (2) Heaven is a Place on Earth...Belinda Carlisle, Virgin
- (3) The Way You Make Me Feel...Michael Jackson, Epic
- (4) Fatality of New York...Pogues/Kirsty MacColl, Pogue Mahones
- (5) Love Letters...Alison Moyet, CBS
- (6) House Arrest...Krush, Fon/Cub
- (7) Stutter...Morris Minors and The Majors, 10 Records
- (8) I Found Someone...Cher, Geffen
- (9) Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree...Mel & Kim, 10 Records

## TOP 10 UK ALBUMS

- (1) Now That's What I Call Music 10...Various, EMI
- (2) Whenever You Need Somebody...Rick Astley, RCA
- (3) Bad...Michael Jackson, Epic
- (4) Hits 7...Various, CBS
- (5) Bridge of Spies...TPau, Sire
- (6) Pat Shop Boys, Parlophone
- (7) Tango in the Night...Firewater Mac, Warner Brothers
- (8) Popped in Souled Out...Wet Wet Wet, Precious Organization
- (9) All the Best...Paul McCartney, Parlophone
- (10) Whitney...Whitney Houston, Arista

Compiled by Gallup for Music Week/BBC/EMI

## FILMS

## Also on national release

## Advance booking possible

**ANGEL HEART (18):** Mickey Rourke's down-at-heel detective pursues a missing person to the underworld of New Orleans. Pulp stuff, directed by Alan Parker in slant-bang style (113 min). Cinema: Baker Street (01-835 9772). Progs 1.25, 3.35, 5.05, 8.25 (D). Odeon Kensington (01-802 6644). Progs 9.00.

**BEVERLY HILLS COP II (15):** Eddie Murphy repeats his performance as the brazen Detroit cop on a job in Los Angeles. Tony Scott directs (103 min). Cinema: Oxford Street (01-636 0810). Progs 1.30, 3.50, 6.10, 8.30, 10.50. City Hall (01-437 1234). Progs 1.15, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, (D).

**BIG FOOT AND THE BEANSHIDE MEN (PG):** A suburban family return to the big screen with hairy terrestrial. Tired version on E.T. from Steven Spielberg's company. With John Lithgow. Melinda Dillon, directed by William Dear (111 min). Cinema: Baker Street (01-835 9772). Progs 1.25, 3.35, 5.05, 8.25 (D). Odeon Kensington (01-802 6644). Progs 9.00.

**THE DEAD (U):** John Huston's final film — a poignant adaptation of James Joyce's story about a post-Christmas party in Dublin, full of mellow reflections on life, marriage and death. With Angelica Huston, Donal McCann (82 min). Cinema: Baker Street (01-835 9772). Progs 1.25, 3.35, 5.05, 8.25 (D). Odeon Kensington (01-802 6644). Progs 9.00.

**HOPE AND GLORY (15):** John Boorman's autobiographical account of an ordinary family living through the extraordinary years of the London Blitz. Vivid, anecdotal, with Sebastian Rice-Edwards and Sammi Davis (118 min). Cinema: Baker Street (01-835 9772). Progs 1.25, 3.35, 5.05, 8.25 (D). Odeon Kensington (01-802 6644). Progs 9.00.

**INNER SPACE (PG):** Imaginative comic fantasy from the Spielberg school of heavy rock delivery and implausible plot. Implied by error into the body of a meek grocery clerk (Martin Short). Joe Dante directs (118 min). Cinema: Baker Street (01-835 9772). Progs 1.25, 3.35, 5.05, 8.25 (D). Odeon Kensington (01-802 6644). Progs 9.00.

**MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE (PG):** Live-action, feature-length adventure for He-Man. Skeletor and other fantasy toys, with Dolph Lundgren as the ultimate warrior. Directed by Gary Goodard (100 min). Cinema: Baker Street (01-835 9772). Progs 1.25, 3.35, 5.05, 8.25 (D). Odeon Kensington (01-802 6644). Progs 9.00.

**PREDATOR (18):** Arnold Schwarzenegger plays the leader of a military rescue team, directed by John McTiernan (107 min). Cinema: Baker Street (01-835 9772). Progs 1.25, 3.35, 5.05, 8.25 (D). Odeon Kensington (01-802 6644). Progs 9.00.

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## TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear  
and Peter Davalle

## BBC1

- 6.00 **Crestal AM**.  
6.30 **Edgar Kennedy in Sock Me to Sleep (R)**.  
7.00 **Breakfast Time** with Jeremy Paxman, Sally Magnusson and John Stapleton. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15.  
8.35 **Make 'Em Laugh (R)**.  
9.00 **News and weather** followed by **Open Air**. Viewers comment on yesterday's television programmes.  
9.30 **Kilroy**. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject.  
10.00 **News and weather** followed by **The Flintstones (R)**.  
10.30 **Children's BBC**. Andy Crane with programme news and birthday greetings followed by **Play School** presented by Chloe Ashcroft and Ian Lauchlin and **The Wombles**, narrated by Bernard Cribbins (R).  
10.55 **Five to Eleven**. A reading by Joanna Lumley. 11.00 **News and weather** followed by **Open Air** presented by Paddy Doherty and **Samson Holmes** from Jersey.  
12.00 **News and weather** followed by **Daytime Live**. Magazine programme presented by Pamela Armstrong, Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spiers. 12.55 **Regional news and weather**.  
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. Weather. 1.30 **Neighbours**. Charlene and Scott, banned from the barbecue, steal some time together and then Charlene receives a mysterious telephone call.  
1.50 **The Thom Blanks**. Episode two of the five-part adaptation of Colleen McCullough's novel. Mary Carson celebrates her 75th birthday and reveals her feelings to Ralph. 2.00 **News and weather**.  
2.30 **Puddles Up**. The first of a new international white-water canoeing competition from Llangollen, North Wales.  
3.00 **Henry's Cat (R)**.  
3.30 **Adventures of a kitten**.  
4.10 **Lancelotti and Hardy (R)**.  
4.15 **Jackpot**. Rick Mayall with part two of **Ronald Dahl's George's Marvellous Medicine (R)**.  
4.35 **Yogi Bear (R)**.  
4.50 **The Really Wild Show**. The first of a new series of the nature programme presented by Terry Nutkins, Nick Davies and Chris Packham. 5.00 **Newsround**. 5.10 **Grange Hill**. Episode one of a new 20-part series. (Costed) 5.35 **Neighbours (R)**.  
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Nicholas Witchell and Philip Heydon. Weather. 6.35 **News and weather**.  
7.00 **Holiday 88**. This first of a new series includes Anne Gregg trekking through the Himalayan foothills; Kathy Taylor Greek island-hopping; and presenter Frank Boughey sailing the Blackpool Blunkies. (Costed).  
7.30 **EastEnders**. Wilmot-Brown is threatened with further legal action; and Eddi this time is missing out on the gossip. (Costed).  
8.00 **Question of Sport** presented by David Coleman. Bill Beaumont and Emyr Hughes are joined by Ian Woosnam, Keith Deller, Mike Gatting and Steve O'Grady.  
8.30 **Divided We Stand**. Domestic comedy series starring Anna Keaveney and Shaun Curry as an unhappy married couple who have split the marital home. (Costed).  
9.00 **News O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk and Debbie Thewler. Regional news and weather.  
9.30 **An Affair in Mind**. (Costed) (see Choice).  
11.00 **The Magic Rectangle (R)**. (see Choice).  
12.00 **Weather**.

## BBC2

- 9.00 **Crestal**. 12.30 **Open University**. 1.30 **Mop and Swirl (R)**.  
1.50 **Charlie Chaplin in A Woman** (1915, b/w).  
2.00 **News and weather** followed by **See Hear**. Magazine programme for the hearing impaired (R).  
2.35 **The Clothes Show** launches the Clothes Show Model 88 competition and discusses mail-order fashion. 3.00 **Holiday Outings**. Kathy Taylor holidays on the North Yorkshire Moors (R).  
3.00 **News and weather** followed by **Great Collections**. The art collection of Sir Alfred and Lady Bask (R). 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather.  
4.00 **Catchment**. The first of a new world game series presented by Paul Cole.  
4.30 **Royal Institution Christmas Lectures**. The second of six lectures on Crystals and Lenses.  
5.30 **Rally in the Sky**. A rally of microflight aircraft (R).  
6.00 **Film: Gallipoli**. A live action/narrated film version of Jonathan Swift's children's story. Directed by Peter Hunt.

## ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** includes cartoons and, at 7.00 and 8.00 **Good Morning Britain** introduced by Mike Morris.  
8.30 **Friday Britain** presented by Anne Diamond in Australia.  
9.25 **Thames news headlines**.  
9.30 **Give Us a Clue**. Celebrity charades game presented by Michael Parkinson. Lionel Blair and Lisa Goddard are joined by Cyle Brando, Wayne Brady, Broderick, Gloria Gennaro, Gloria Humphord, Jan Leeming and Wayne Sleep. 10.00 **Santa Barbara**. 10.35 **News headlines**.  
10.50 **The Time - The Place**. A new series of a discussion on a topical subject. 11.10 **Rainbow**. Learning with puppets. 11.35 **Thames news headlines**.  
11.30 **About Britain**. The mystery surrounding an important piece of medieval art found in the attic of an old cottage in the Somerset village of Tawstock (R).  
12.00 **News**. 12.30 **Thames news headlines**.  
1.00 **Chloe Lattin**. Word association game presented by Jeremy Beckett. 1.30 **The Blackadder**. Mystery serial starring James Corden and Barbara Fyfe (R).  
2.30 **The Tenthredin**. The first of a new medical series presented by Josephine Butler. A series on plant propagation. With gardeners from the Royal Horticultural Society at Witley (R). 3.35 **Thames news**. 3.50 **The Young Doctors**. Medical drama series set in a large Australian city hospital.  
4.30 **Redfern**. A repeat of the programme shown at 11.10. 4.45 **Three Misses**. Drama, with Gabrielle Bradshaw. 4.55 **Turn On**. A new series starring Elizabeth Estensen.

## CHANNEL 4

- 12.00 **Business Daily**. Business and financial news service presented by Susanah Simons.  
12.30 **Just 4 Fun**. Children's programme.  
1.00 **Science Series** for pre-school children. The guest is Lorena Lynn.  
2.00 **Breakers**. Film round action in the Mercantile Credit Classic, introduced by Tony Frawley. Among those in action of the young Scottish actor, Stephen Hendry.  
2.30 **Newsnight**. Vintage American comedy series starring Elizabeth Montgomery and Dick Sargent.  
3.30 **Cartoon Capers**. Animated comedy films, presented by Richard Egan.  
4.00 **The Heart of the Lakes**. A documentary portrait of Dom Bede Griffiths, a Benedictine monk who presides over an ashram in southern India by the River Ganges on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Commentary by Maurice Denham.  
7.00 **Channel 4 News**.  
7.30 **Comment** followed by **Weather**.

## A dangerous obsession

## TELEVISION CHOICE

Connoisseurs of 1940s Hollywood thrillers like *Double Indemnity* and *The Postman Always Rings Twice* should feel at home with *An Affair in Mind* (BBC1, 9.30pm). It is another story of a man obsessed by a beautiful and predatory woman who uses that obsession to destroy him. In this adaptation of Ruth Rendell's novel, *The Face of Treason*, the Barbara Stanwyck/Lana Turner role goes to Amanda Donohoe, previously known as Oliver Reed's desert island companion in *Castaway*. That film was notable for her willingness to shed her clothes and here she is quickly doing the same as she lures a young novelist (Stephen Dillan) into bed, even before he has had a chance to ask her name. He is separated from his wife, she has a dull marriage to a rich businessman. He rents a country windmill so that he can be near her and the affair blossoms. It soon transpires that she is no better than a spoiled bitch but he is too infatuated to care and inevitably matters reach the size when she suggests bumping off hubby so that they can live happily ever after. At this point the viewer may feel boredom setting in as this increasingly soppy romance between two unsympathetic characters and he is tempted to switch off or seek alternative entertainment on other channels. But Ruth Rendell's stories often build slowly and deliberately, so you follow the indignity of falling down the obligatory steps as he makes his entrance. But I fear that the genre will survive. Robinson also has a memorable tussle with a celebrity of arguably greater weight, Sir Robin Day, in which Sir Robin abrasively refutes the suggestion that he was once a mere newswriter.

Stephen Dillan as Gray in an adaptation of Ruth Rendell's romantic thriller *An Affair in Mind* (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Behind the jollity there are also serious points about the way television creates personalities and how these creations are taken up, and even moulded, by the viewer. Interrupted by Christmas and the New Year, *Off the Page* (Channel 4, 11.30pm) returns on a new day and at a different time. So much for trying to build audiences by regular scheduling. But it is a series worth catching. The idea, simple but effective, is to get modern writers to talk about the hows and whys of their craft. Tonight's subject is the South African novelist, Nadine Gordimer. Despite being an outspoken opponent of apartheid and having books banned by the South African government, she has continued to live in her native country rather than seek a more sympathetic climate elsewhere. She reflects on this, and other aspects of her life, in an interview filmed in France.

Peter Waymark

## Tom Jones's war days

## RADIO CHOICE

Would you believe that The Fifth Most Powerful Man in Europe (Radio 4, 7.20pm) was Tom Jones? Not, of course, the one who brought us "It's Not Unusual" - nor even Henry Fielding's young hero - but a Welsh civil servant. This Tom Jones was drafted into the service of the wartime government in 1916, filling a post specially created by Lloyd George - Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet Office. Formerly a professor of economics, Jones did not expect the temporary appointment to lead to another long career. He even tried to get out after two years. But he was still in the end, the kind of behind-the-scenes power which led to the "fifth most powerful" description, when the next world war broke out. From the beginning he had kept a diary, which forms the basis of this detailed portrait of a truly extraordinary civil servant and Welshman.



David Hatch (R4, 9.05am and R1, 11.30am)

No prizes for guessing the subject of *Our Grace* (Radio 2, 9.00pm). Grace Fields, the hugely popular singer and actress, would have been 90 this week - rather an unusual anniversary even for BBC Radio to celebrate, but they are doing it in style with Nick Clarke's hour-long feature. Archive interviews, records and the memories of friends and admirers are all pressed into service to tell the story of a girl born over a fish and chip shop

in Rochdale who was to become a superstar of her age. The less triumphant side of her career is also given due weight - the unpopular departure to America in 1940, and the later exile on Capri. *Our Grace* is presented by Mike Harding.

The BBC's relentless self-exposure to its public continues with the invasion of Call Nick Bates (Radio 4, 9.05am) by the radio moogle, David Hatch, Managing Director of Network Radio, and Michael Green, Controller of Radio 4, will join Michael Checkland, the Director General, to field callers' questions about the future of radio. For those who still feel like more - or who have questions (as well they might) about *Wonderful Radio One* - Simon Bates (Radio 1, 11.30am) has more of the same. Johnny Beering, the Controller, will be joined by Duncan Thomas, Deputy Director of Resources, and, rounding off a busy morning, David Hatch again.

Nigel Andrew

Vanessa Redgrave in the first of a three-part series on the Salem witch trials, *Three Sovereigns for Sarah* (C4, 9pm)

- BBC1** 8.30pm-8.45pm **News**. 8.45pm-9.00pm **News**. 9.00pm-9.15pm **News**. 9.15pm-9.30pm **News**. 9.30pm-9.45pm **News**. 9.45pm-10.00pm **News**. 10.00pm-10.15pm **News**. 10.15pm-10.30pm **News**. 10.30pm-10.45pm **News**. 10.45pm-11.00pm **News**. 11.00pm-11.15pm **News**. 11.15pm-11.30pm **News**. 11.30pm-11.45pm **News**. 11.45pm-12.00pm **News**. 12.00pm-12.15pm **News**. 12.15pm-12.30pm **News**. 12.30pm-12.45pm **News**. 12.45pm-1.00pm **News**. 1.00pm-1.15pm **News**. 1.15pm-1.30pm **News**. 1.30pm-1.45pm **News**. 1.45pm-2.00pm **News**. 2.00pm-2.15pm **News**. 2.15pm-2.30pm **News**. 2.30pm-2.45pm **News**. 2.45pm-3.00pm **News**. 3.00pm-3.15pm **News**. 3.15pm-3.30pm **News**. 3.30pm-3.45pm **News**. 3.45pm-4.00pm **News**. 4.00pm-4.15pm **News**. 4.15pm-4.30pm **News**. 4.30pm-4.45pm **News**. 4.45pm-5.00pm **News**. 5.00pm-5.15pm **News**. 5.15pm-5.30pm **News**. 5.30pm-5.45pm **News**. 5.45pm-6.00pm **News**. 6.00pm-6.15pm **News**. 6.15pm-6.30pm **News**. 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# Funds threat to high-technology research firms

By Robert Matthews,  
Technology Correspondent

Government moves to reduce funding of high-technology research, which were revealed in a memorandum leaked to a Labour MP, will put British companies at a serious disadvantage against foreign rivals, a Tory technology spokesman said yesterday.

Mr Amedee Turner, MEP for Suffolk, the European Democratic Group spokesman on research and development at the European Parliament, said yesterday that small high-technology entrepreneurs by which the Government lays so much store would suffer under rules secretly drawn up by the

Department of Trade and Industry for its "Support for Innovation" scheme.

According to the memorandum, which was leaked to Mr Gordon Brown, Labour spokesman on the Treasury, the DTI is to make no effort to seek out companies which could benefit from Government support. Applications from companies for more than £50,000 will need the personal approval of ministers.

Mr Turner said the need for ministerial approval for so small a level of funding was "ridiculous". Even small firms often need far more to turn their ideas into exportable products.

"Our future lies with these small entrepreneurial companies. They fill in the gaps left by the big companies. I don't think we do nearly enough to help them, and we do far less than our main economic competitors", he said.

Mr Turner said that a recent study tour of Japan had left him in no doubt that small high-technology companies should be strongly supported by Government.

However, he said that, like the Japanese, the Government should be firm in not subsidizing the research and development efforts of big companies.

Dr Cyril Hills, director of research at GEC, said that the

memorandum was the latest manifestation of the Government's "short-sighted" attitude of leaving research and development to market forces. "The implication is that the DTI will support collaboration and the idea of the UK getting its act together as a whole, but is not so keen on supporting projects that single companies put forward, as they think companies should look after their own ideas."

However, foreign industrial rivals were willing to shield blossoming high-technology industries from the vagaries of market forces. "No-one can say which way is right, but on a five-year basis, the French, German and

Japanese market forces will have been distorted, and UK companies will suffer", Dr Hills said.

One small, high-technology firm that had shown how Government pump-priming could work was Herga, an electrical engineering company based at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, which won about £50,000 from the DTI to develop a fibre optic device to protect humans from injury by robots.

The money went to a joint research project with the Battelle Institute, of the United States, into the development of a safety mat with optical properties which changed when a person stood on it. The changes were detected by the

robot, which ceased operation.

Mr Peter Tracey, managing director of Herga, said that the DTI funding was "extremely valuable", although it contributed only 10 per cent of the total development costs.

The product, which has found wide application, is a big contributor to the success of the company, which employs 180, has a turnover of about £3.5 million and is growing at 30 per cent a year.

However, Mr Tracey said that under the new rules drawn up by the DTI, it was far from certain that the fibre optic mat concept would win the ministerial approval needed to obtain funding.

## Epidemic inquiry after three die

Continued from page 1

admitted to hospital", he said. Schools have been given fact sheets and parents are being told that if any child develops a headache, fever and a rash, they should contact their doctor immediately.

Mrs Ann Hensley, Polbrook headmistress, said yesterday: "There is a lot of anxiety and we are trying to calm things down a bit".

Dr Brian McCloskey, Acting Medical Officer for Worcester health authority, said that he was concerned about the outbreak. "We normally only get 12-24 cases a year with no deaths. We are checking to see if there are links with the epidemic in Sweden."

Dr McCloskey said that there was no explanation for the outbreak. "It is typical of the illness that it appears in clusters and then disappears again."

The Stroud-based Meningitis Trust said yesterday that the Malvern outbreak was unlikely to be linked with the Stroud epidemic, which rose to a peak in 1986.

In that year there were 30 new cases and five deaths, but last year this dropped to 13 cases and one death.

"We hope the outbreak is nearly over", Mrs Jackie Totterdale, the trust's campaign co-ordinator, said.

In 1986 the Government funded a £57,000 project to try to establish the cause of the Stroud outbreak. Researchers swabbed all 7,000 inhabitants of the village and their findings are expected to be published later this week.

Since 1983 the number of cases of meningococcal meningitis has doubled from 428 to 1,021, surpassing the 1000 peak in the 1974 epidemic.

## Social workers shun vacancies after child sex abuse inquiry

By Peter Davenport

Social services officials in Cleveland are finding it impossible to recruit new staff after the child sexual abuse inquiry. There is a danger that urgent cases will not even be dealt with immediately.

The department, which has a social work establishment of 220, has 43 vacancies; but a recent advertising campaign failed to attract a single external application for posts specializing in child abuse.

Cleveland's worsening problems were disclosed yesterday. One senior official has warned that the pressures on his staff have brought many close to physical and mental exhaustion.

In a memorandum to Mr Michael Bishop, Director of Social Services for Cleveland, Mr Bob Roberts, an assistant director for the Langbaurgh district, says of his staff: "They are tired, overworked and feel the repercussions of the child abuse crisis, the inquiry and the wardship proceedings."

"There is a demoralization prevailing which, in my experience in social work, has never been so low."

In some areas, no new referrals are being dealt with, statutory work and duties are being neglected and staff with limited experience are having to undertake complex cases which is reducing the quality of the service and increasing stress on individuals.

The social services department was strongly criticized over its handling of the sexual abuse problems in the county during the five months of

evidence given to the judicial inquiry. Senior officials believe that some of the criticism was vindictive and that social workers felt they were being pilloried.

A report by Mr Bishop, the social services director, on the deteriorating situation is to be discussed at the county social services committee later this week. In the document he says he is pessimistic that advertising through normal channels will help fill the vacancies.

"My assistant directors tell me that pressure is now at its most acute level ever and that it is extremely difficult to allocate workers of sufficient calibre to new complex cases," Mr Bishop said. "My staff tell me that there is a real danger that in the near future we may be unable to deal immediately with urgent cases."

To alleviate the crisis Mr Bishop wants the committee to authorize the use of experienced social work visitors on a temporary basis as unqualified social workers, to recruit graduates into short term, unqualified posts, to sponsor students on existing training courses, to support moves for a national pool of workers and to launch a national publicity campaign to express positive aspects of employment within the county.

The Cleveland child abuse inquiry, which heard its final witness before Christmas, will resume for two days later this month for closing speeches from counsel; its report is expected to be delivered to the Government about three months later.



Mr David Mellor, right, rebuking Israeli soldiers in Gaza's Jabalia camp yesterday. He was accompanied by Mr Bernard Mills of the UN.

## Mellor storm over Gaza

Continued from page 1

half an hour earlier not far away. "But it was perfectly peaceful when I arrived," said Mr Mellor. "I saw no stones."

The minister rushed out to where an Israeli patrol was gathered to check the growing demonstration. The Lieutenant-Colonel in charge shook hands. Mr Mellor demanded why the boy was arrested.

"Because stones were being thrown," the officer answered in English.

"I saw no stones," Mr Mellor said. "I shall look into

this. It is not good, not good at all." He stormed away to his waiting car.

The troops moved in to cut off the cameras. "This is a security zone. You can't take pictures of that," one soldier said as he cracked his hand over a lens focused on the minister. There was obvious relief in the platoon when Mr Mellor's convoy of cars left.

At a UN school in Gaza town Mr Mellor watched a class learning English. "It hardly looks as though you are training a bunch of bootleggers," he told their

teacher. "They are just normal kids having to cope with difficulties much worse than we have to cope with in our lives. They seem bright and cheerful and well disciplined."

"Bye bye and good luck" he called. "I really hope they have a better future. They had not understood a word but they stood politely as he left. On the blackboard were the English words they do understand: plate, lunch, hungry and shut."

Heavy rain throughout the occupied territories helped calm tempers yesterday.

## Floods and gales bring chaos

Continued from page 1

Parsons, aged 52, after she slipped from a riverside path into the fast-flowing water. Mr O'Neill heard her screams.

A Texaco tanker was damaged when it went adrift off Milford Haven on the West Wales coast after its mooring lines parted in the gales.

In York, car parks and riverside properties were flooded by the River Ouse. Part of Bournemouth seaport was closed after storm-driven waves sliced out a 60 ft length of promenade at Gordon Steps, Southbourne.

Cross-Channel travellers faced delays and cancellations as strong winds continued to sweep through the Strait of Dover. Early hovercraft flights to France were cancelled.

Electricity supplies were restored to homes along the South Coast.

The weathermen said the strong winds and rain would continue until the end of the week. A prolonged cold spell was probably several weeks away.

## Superpowers step up Afghan moves

Continued from page 1

voy proceeding down the dusty road unhindered.

According to Western experts, one of Mr Shevardnadze's aims will be to judge the extent to which the faction-ridden regime of President Najibullah would be able to stand on its own feet in the event of a Soviet withdrawal. European diplomats based in Kabul believe it would collapse within days.

The Afghan capital has been rife with rumours in recent months that the Soviet army might be planning a quick withdrawal, although there has been little military evidence on the ground to support this view and Soviet posts around the city have been strengthened.

Some Kabul-based diplomats believe that the Kremlin might be considering a partial pull-back closer to the Soviet border behind the protection of the Hindu Kush mountain range.

Political observers noted that last January, Mr Shevardnadze said in Kabul that a political settlement was "feasible and as close as ever before". The observers said the ensuing 12 months had provided little evidence from the Soviet side to back up this claim despite what many see as the sincerity of Moscow's declared wish to leave.

Mr Shevardnadze's visit is the first by a Politburo member since the Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) in Kabul last month at which Dr Najibullah strengthened his internal position after being elected as President with sweeping powers. These have further reduced the chances of opposing groups agreeing to join in any interim coalition government.

● ISLAMABAD: Mr Arsalan met Pakistani officials yesterday to co-ordinate strategy on the next round of negotiations to settle the Afghan issue (AP reports). He was accompanied by Mr Robert Oakley, the Middle East director of the National Security Staff Council and met the Pakistani Foreign Secretary, Mr Abdul Sattar, before leaving talks with President Zia.

## Soviet legal moves to end psychiatric abuse

From Christopher Walker  
Moscow

The Soviet authorities yesterday announced the passing of a series of new rulings and laws designed to protect ordinary citizens against abuses of psychiatry which have been coming under mounting criticism in the Soviet press, as well as from Western pressure groups.

There was hope among dissidents that the new regulations would make the notorious Soviet practice of

committing sane people for their nonconformist beliefs more difficult. But sources urged caution until it had been seen how the new regulations worked in practice.

No official tally exists of the number of healthy political prisoners still held in special psychiatric hospitals, but Mr Vladimir Titov, a former KGB agent released last October from one such institution, claimed that the total still ran into hundreds.

According to Tass, the

Presidium of the Supreme Soviet has issued a new statute providing for "legal guarantees against possible errors and malpractices in providing psychiatric assistance to the population."

In a key section, the agency added: "People receiving psychiatric assistance, as well as their relatives and lawful representatives, may go to court to protest against a decision by a chief psychiatrist and a psychiatric commission and are guaranteed legal aid

by a lawyer with a view to ensuring their rights."

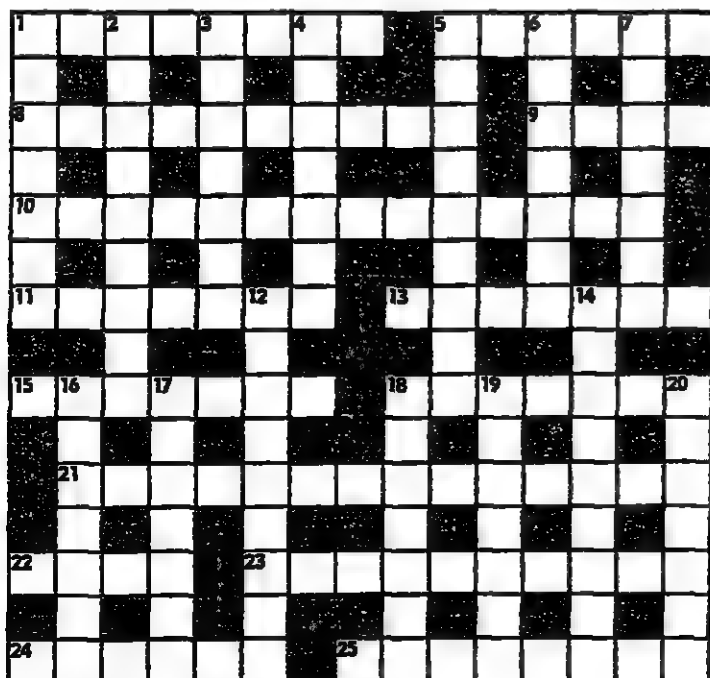
Tass also reported that the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation had altered the republic's Criminal Code to specify what treatment could now be forced upon the mentally ill and to make it a criminal offence to commit a healthy person to an asylum.

Legal experts noted that, in effect, this meant a change in the relevant law for the whole Soviet Union as the Criminal

Code of the Russian Federation, the largest of the 15 republics, forms the basis for law in the rest of the country.

One of the catalysts for the liberalization was a sensational article published last November in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, which came close to repeating damning charges made by Soviet dissidents, including the now exiled psychiatrist, Dr Anatoly Koryagin, who formed a group in the 1970s to monitor Soviet psychiatric abuses. Stalin camps row, page 6

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,557



ACROSS

- 1 Evidence of a slack washer (4-4).
- 2 No hours for this composer (6).
- 3 Pneu! drains off in Septimus Harding's office (10).
- 4 This is blown over border (4).
- 5 Accepting regime that makes a firm bust (9-5).
- 6 Muddy lake in outskirts of Salisbury (7).
- 7 He looks pale in promenade concert (7).
- 8 Useful part of mission, to discharge worry (7).
- 9 Tenable variety of May Day celebration (7).
- 10 Get into the hit parade? (3,3,8).
- 11 Monkhood, a cure for smoking? (4).
- 12 Retailer of spicy items (10).
- 13 Nettle in front of you is close (6).
- 14 Small pile of sand needs sweeping to get dry (8).

DOWN

- 1 A little short of words at mess (7).
- 2 List of people to run Circle Line (9).
- 3 Rotating across junction (7).
- 4 Turn red saying why split up nearly came (7).
- 5 Induce well-off subject to remember (9).
- 6 He is still using Veronica in his performance (7).
- 7 Stop - amber changing to green light (7).
- 8 Passion over English king's enlightenment (9).
- 9 Stern warning from saloon proprietor at night (4-5).
- 10 Bearing left in Luton, for example (7).
- 11 An oil spread in between ends of Lincoln? (7).
- 12 Money that is found in old golf-bag (7).
- 13 Some rank play by forwards (4-3).
- 14 Charm of the nineteenth, rallying-point (7).

Concise crossword, page 7

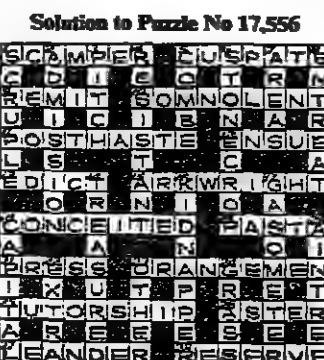
## WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- NADGERS**  
a. Half term at Westminster  
b. Elevenses  
c. A gressle
- HYPERNEMESIA**  
a. Good memory  
b. Bad memory  
c. Narcosis
- KINUM**  
a. A Fijian totem  
b. Apache rain god  
c. Egyptian creator
- GASCONADE**  
a. Braggling  
b. A volley of small arms  
c. A fruit drink

Solutions page 18, column 8



## WEATHER

The south will again be windy, with gales near coasts. Cloud and rain will spread north-east, to be followed by clearer, showery weather. After a dry start over Northern Ireland and southern Scotland, cloud and rain will move from the south later. Showers will continue over the remainder of Scotland falling as sleet or snow in places. Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: colder with showers of sleet or snow.

## ABROAD

MEQDAT: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; h, haze; r, rain; s, sun; sh, shower; t, thunder.

	C	F		C	F
Algeria	15	59	Madrid	14	57
Athens	16	61	Moscow	10	50
Bombay	24	75	Norwich	12	54
Buenos Aires	13	55	Oxford	12	54
Cairo	18	64	Paris	11	52
Canton	19	66	Perth	10	50
Cebu	24	75	Portsmouth	12	54
Hankow	15	59	Reading	12	54
Hong Kong	24	75	Sheffield	12	54
Kobe	15	59	Sunderland	12	54
London	12	54	Toronto	10	50
Lyons	12	54	Winnipeg	10	50
Manila	24	75	Yokohama	15	59
Medan	24	75			
Shanghai	15	59			
Singapore	24	75			
Tokyo	15	59			
Yokohama	15	59			

## AROUND BRITAIN

MEQDAT: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; h, haze; r, rain; s, sun; sh, shower; t, thunder.

	C	F		C	F
Scarborough	14	57	London	12	54
Birmingham	12	54	Manchester	12	54
Cardiff	12	54	Newcastle	12	54
Edinburgh	12	54	Nottingham	12	54
Glasgow	12	54	Sheffield	12	54
Leeds	12	54	Sunderland	12	54
Liverpool	12	54	Toronto	10	50
Manchester	12	54	Winnipeg	10	50
Newcastle	12	54	Yokohama	15	59
Nottingham	12	54			
Sheffield	12	54			
Sunderland	12	54			
Toronto	10	50			
Winnipeg	10	50			
Yokohama	15	59			

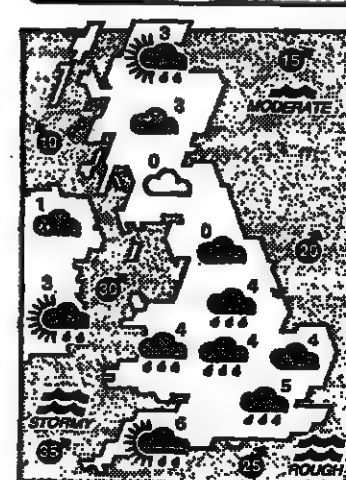
## HIGH TIDES

	AM	PM	HT
London	2:01	5:29	6.1
Aberdeen	2:52	12:4	12.1
Cardiff	2:52	12:4	12.1
Edinburgh	2:52	12:4	12.1
Glasgow	2:52	12:4	12.1
Leeds	2:52	12:4	12.1
Liverpool	2:52	12:4	12.1
Manchester	2:52	12:4	12.1
Newcastle	2:52	12:4	12.1
Nottingham	2:52	12:4	12.1
Sheffield	2:52	12:4	12.1
Sunderland	2:52	12:4	12.1
Toronto	2:52	12:4	12.1
Winnipeg	2:52	12:4	12.1
Yokohama	2:52	12:4	12.1

## THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.58	2.58
Canada \$	2.58	2.58
Denmark kr	11.28	11.28
France F	6.55	6.55
Germany M	2.36	2.36
Italy L	1.36	1.36
Japan Y	163.60	163.60
Netherlands Gld	3.60	3.60
Portugal Esc	200.48	200.48
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	4.66	4.66
Switzerland Fr	2.00	2.00
USA \$	1.96	1.96
Yugoslavia D	23.00	23.00

## AM



## PM



## TEMPERATURES

at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; h, haze; r, rain; s, sun.

## LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 4:36 pm to 7:25 am

Edinburgh 4:24 pm to 8:12 am

Manchester 4:34 pm to 8:12 am

Penzance 5:04 pm to 7:51 am

## LONDON

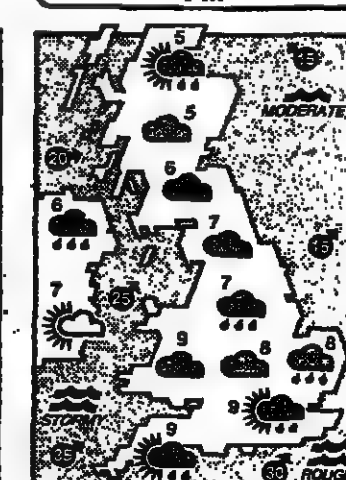
Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C

64F; min 6 pm to 6 am, 4C (40F); max 6

pm, 50 per cent. Rain: 24hr 0.6 in, 0.01 in.

6 pm, 50.6 mm, rising, 1.000 millibars-29.52 in.

## MANCHESTER



## TEMPERATURES

at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; h, haze; r, rain; s, sun.

## LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 4:36 pm to 7:25 am

Edinburgh 4:24 pm to 8:12 am

Manchester 4:34 pm to 8:12 am

Penzance 5:04 pm to 7:51 am

## LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C

64F; min 6 pm to 6 am, 4C (40F); max 6



Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1402.0 (+28.7)  
FT-SE 100  
1747.5 (+34.8)  
Bargains  
17944 (15800)  
USM (Datastream)  
138.45 (+1.77)

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.8725 (-0.0125)  
W German mark  
2.9735 (+0.0122)  
Trade-weighted  
75.9 (+0.1)

RMC joins  
in US  
venture

The British building materials company, RMC Group, has set up a 50-50 joint venture partnership with RMC of America, with Lone Star Industries Inc. forming an integrated cement, aggregates, and ready-mixed concrete operation in Northern California with annual turnover of \$220 million (£117.6 million). The joint venture will borrow \$110 million, which, with \$55 million from RMC, will be paid to the parent company for assets worth \$220 million.

Mr Jim Owen, managing director, said yesterday: "This deal is a clear extension of our existing business and despite the short-term outlook in the US demonstrates our mid-to-long-term confidence in the region."

The joint venture will enjoy a leading position in Northern California with 27 per cent of the cement market, 20 per cent of the aggregates market and 25 per cent of the ready-mixed concrete market.

*Times, page 22*

Bid closes

The £430 million hostile bid by Sir Frederick's mail order company, reaches its first closing date today.

*Times, page 22*

Racing deal

Stanley Leasing Organisation, the betting shops and restaurants group, is paying £258,500 in cash for David Hudson (Racing).

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2804.84 (+35.81)
Dow Jones	2804.84 (+35.81)
Tokyo	2127.84 (+34.98)
Nikkei Average	2127.84 (+34.98)
Hong Kong	2286.29 (+16.48)
Amsterdam Gen	205.7 (-3.0)
Sydney: AO	1297.4 (+22.8)
Frankfurt	1237.1 (-82.8)
Commerzbank	1237.1 (-82.8)
Brussels:	
General	3600.3 (+5.2)
Paris CAC	274.4 (-8.3)
Zurich SNA Gen	408.8 (-8.8)
London:	
FT-30	1747.5 (+34.8)
FT-100	1747.5 (+34.8)
FT-250	1747.5 (+34.8)
FT-500	1747.5 (+34.8)
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FT-200	1747.5 (+34.







# GEC to pay £12m for 40% stake in Summit Group

By Michael Tate

Agreement has finally been reached under which Lord Weinstock's General Electric group will pay £12 million for a 40 per cent share stake in The Summit Group, Atlantic Computers' property and financial services offshoot which has a stake in London Docklands' City Harbour scheme.

At present Summit is 75 per cent owned by Atlantic, with the remaining 25 per cent held by Summit's two joint managing directors, Mr Barry Sack and Mr Kit Hunter Gordon.

Under the agreement GEC will pump £4.5 million of new money into Summit, and buy the rest of its stake from Atlantic.

It will leave GEC and Atlantic equal 40 per cent shareholders in Summit, while

the two directors' stakes will be whittled down to 20 per cent.

Summit was founded by Mr Sack and Mr Hunter Gordon in 1979, and was absorbed by Mr Jacob Rothschild's RIT group in the early 1980s, before moving to Comecap in early 1986. It was inherited by Atlantic last April as a result of the computer supplier's £120 million merger with Comcap.

Summit's financial services operation, Aurit Services, has worked closely with GEC Finance for a number of years and has built up a sizeable portfolio of leased assets for GEC. Aurit specializes in arranging finance for high value capital equipment, including aircraft and ships.

Commenting on the deal yesterday, Mr Sack said: "This

new agreement will allow Summit to extend substantially its activities in the financial services field.

"Summit should also be able to benefit from transactions referred to it by GEC where our specialist skills can be used to their best advantage."

For Atlantic - which tragically lost its own founder, Mr John Foulston, last year in a car accident at Brands Hatch - Mr John Tompkins, the chief executive, said the tie-up with GEC would "hopefully pave the way to many more mutual opportunities, making it more profitable for all of us."

Mr Tompkins described the Summit management team as "particularly bright and creative."

Summit's involvement in the City Harbour scheme through its property company, Project Development Group, is looking particularly exciting. Prospects have improved significantly in the past 12 months, said Mr Tompkins.

The 4.5 acre office and hotel complex is being put together in partnership with British Land and the Dutch property company, Maatschappij voor Bedrijfsobjecten, and is now expected to contribute to Summit's profits in the current year.

Summit made profits of about £1 million in 1986, but Mr Tompkins is highly optimistic about prospects for this year, when he says profits could be "several times more than that."

## Martell holds open its options

By Joe Joseph

Martell, the French cognac house being courted by Grand Metropolitan, the British hotel and drinks group, and by Canada's Seagram spirits company, says it is keeping its options open as to which suit will finally win its hand. But it says the choice should be decided within the next week or two.

Mr Jacques Druau, the general manager of Martell, said from France yesterday: "We are not in a position at the moment to make any statement on the position either with Seagram or with GrandMet. We have signed an accord with Seagram. If the finance minister refuses to acknowledge this agreement, we will then have to think about our next step."

"We cannot tell what the final outcome will be. It depends on what the finance minister decides and whether any new bids are put on the table. We expect a decision from the authorities shortly. Whatever happens, we expect that within the next week or two we will have a deal with Seagram, or GrandMet - or somebody else."

GrandMet - which is offering £268 million for Martell, topping the value of what it believes is an invalid deal by Seagram to buy the Martell family's 41 per cent stake - appears to have been gaining the edge in the battle.

Last week the French stockbrokers' association ruled that Seagram's approach fell foul of France's takeover rules. This view was echoed on Sunday, when M Georges Chavares, the French industry minister, said Seagram's deal with the Martell family was invalid because it bypassed the Paris Stock Exchange. Observers are interpreting the comments made by M Chavares - who stressed that it was the finance ministry and not he that was responsible for making the final decision - as a hint the French authorities will block the Seagram offer.

But a spokesman for the Canadian group's negotiating team said from Paris yesterday: "We remain comfortable with our agreement with the Martell family, which was executed in full compliance with all applicable regulations. We continue to be hopeful that the French government will view this agreement as positively as our two family firms intend it to be."

M Chavares, who expects the French government to approve GrandMet's bid next week, is meeting officials from Martell, Seagram and GrandMet this week.

## COMMENT Adler fattens up Pearl for the takeover table

Larry Adler is conditioning for the role of contract legman to the Trustee Savings Bank. Hard on the heels of his triumphant destabilization, and subsequent takeover by the TSB, of Hill Samuel, Mr Adler, through his FIA Insurance, has picked up 5.43 per cent of Pearl Group's shares. The old dowager at the other end of Holborn from the Prudential is "in play", and Mr Adler will bide his time before he takes his profit.

FIA is not likely itself to bid for Pearl, for even if it used its policyholders' funds it would be overstretching to pay the billion pounds it would cost to tuck Pearl under the corporate umbrella. But with another 4.5 per cent of Pearl's equity in the hands of Australian Mutual Provident, nearly 10 per cent of the votes are now controlled from South of the Equator.

Pearl is a dull old company, worth more to a predator seeking to develop in insurance than to an investor seeking quick returns. Its strength lies in the long term funds, the surpluses built up by generations of collector/salesmen cycling about the streets of industrial Britain selling penny policies. The image is now being updated, but Pearl remains essentially an industrial life office.

Its locked-in surpluses, however, give it the strength to write enormous volumes of the with-profit endowment

policies which are central to much of Britain's house purchase arrangements, and the TSB could provide just the customer base which would allow Pearl to profit. Pearl's name has been linked with the TSB before, and there is a logic to an association which brings together the lender of mortgage funds and the writer of the association endowment contract.

An association with FAI itself, however, is less easy to conjure, despite Mr Adler's comment to Pearl that his company looks forward "to a happy and prosperous association" with Pearl. It is likely to be both happier and more prosperous for the raider than the raided.

Even if there is no immediate outlet for the holding, Mr Adler is content that he has been able to buy so soundly, even though Pearl is outside the "Triple Seven" rule which is said to govern his investment activities. He must be able to see a yield of at least 7 per cent, a price/earnings ratio of no more than 7 per cent and a purchase price which is no more than 70 per cent of his estimate of net assets per share. Pearl has met only the third criterion.

Mr Adler is likely to continue buying, but will have in mind that he can only move beyond 15 per cent once he has been declared a fit and proper person by the British authorities. Long before then he is likely to have taken his profit, ready to move on.

## Intervention works at last

The central banks were at work bright and early yesterday morning supporting the dollar, and continued to provide the beleaguered US currency with a much-needed prop for the remainder of the day. For the first time since the ill-fated Group of Seven statement on December 23 the intervention worked, although nobody believes that the dollar's troubles are over.

The action by the central banks helped provide equity markets with a generally bright start in the first real trading day of the New Year. Ironically, the effects of the Bank of Japan's support for the dollar, which may have totalled \$1 billion through the day, came too late to help the Tokyo market. The Nikkei-Dow Jones average fell by 346 points, against a 34.8-point rise for the FT-SE 100.

The success of yesterday's dollar support operation, which brought it back from the brink of a yen rate of ¥120, does not disguise the fact that the markets are in a highly unpredictable phase. Between Christmas and New Year, when everyone was anxious for a quiet time and end-year position squaring should have been taking place, the dollar should have gained ground, not gone into free fall.

And the start of the year, with dollar sentiment heavily bearish, should have been the time when the markets

overcame even the most resolute central bank action. Edouard Balladur, the French finance minister, may be talking of secret clauses in the G7 pre-Christmas statement which commits the signatories to supporting the dollar.

The next milestone for the markets will be the publication of the US trade figures, a week on Friday. The October figures, published in December, were shockers, showing a record \$17.6 billion deficit. Next week's figures, covering November, will be better, perhaps showing a \$15 billion deficit, partly because of the nature of the US data, which is not seasonally adjusted.

But this in itself is unlikely to provide a sustainable reason for the dollar to rally. The markets have fallen into the trap of seeing the US trade gap apparently start to move around the worst part of the J curve before, only to find that the next set of trade numbers take us down again.

The other worry is that the beneficial effects of any real improvement in the trade picture will be offset by an easing of monetary policy. The Southwest Bank of St Louis may only be a bidder but its trimming of prime rate from 8.75 to 8.5 per cent yesterday and the accompanying comment from the bank chairman that lower interest rates were the key to avoiding recession, may be too close to the views of Treasury Secretary James Baker for comfort.

## Electricity sell-off report criticized

By Roland Radford

The Electricity Council yesterday criticized a report favouring individual privatization of the 12 area electricity boards for failing to address the main issues of public interest.

The report, by London Economics, was commissioned by the chairman of 11 of the 12 area electricity boards in England and Wales to counter the proposal by Sir Philip Jones, the Electricity Council chairman, that under privatization a new holding company should have control of the area boards.

In a critique of the report, the council accuses London Economics of basing its arguments on incorrect information, failing to specify the criteria of "public interest" on which it forms its conclusions, and not offering an alternative to the area chairman's preferred option of individual privatization.

The Electricity Council, in its critique, gives a warning that several "significant public interest issues involved in the privatization of electricity distribution" had been overlooked.

These include whether electricity tariffs should be standardized throughout England and Wales; the problems of price discrimination; the responsibilities of the regulator and the management of companies in improving efficiency, and the importance of sales growth in influencing price levels.

In conclusion, the critique by the Electricity Council says that London Economics did not examine whether the benefits of maintaining local identity could be achieved within a more centralized structure.

Therefore, adds the council, London Economics fails to demonstrate that individual privatization of area boards is the superior option.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Energy, is studying the various proposals at present before he makes up his mind late next month or in early March on how the privatization programme should proceed.



Strong medicine: Peter Dodd of Unichem yesterday (Photograph by James Morgan).

## Unichem plans a return to Stock Exchange in 1990

By Our City Staff

Britain's £1.6 billion pharmaceutical distribution industry faces a fierce battle for market share after a decision by Unichem to return to public company status after 21 years as a co-operative.

Unichem plans to launch a second stock market career in 1990, when it expects to command a price tag of about £100 million. But in the meantime Britain's 9,500 independent chemists, of which almost half are among its customers and owners, will be offered new shares at what amounts to heavily discounted prices.

The more goods they buy from Unichem the more shares they qualify for. With the prospect of an 1,100 per cent profit over three years - Unichem's adviser Phillips & Drew reckons the shares, at £1, will be worth £12 by flotation day in mid-1990 - the group expects sales to surge.

Unichem believes its share offer is equivalent to a 5 per cent discount to every customer in an industry that

operates on margins of about 3.5 per cent. Thus, the move threatens to savage the profits of Unichem's main competitors, AAE, whose Vetric operation has 28 per cent of the market, and McCarthy, with 10 per cent.

Observers estimate the advantage presented by the share offer may take Unichem's slice of a pharmaceutical wholesale market, estimated to be worth £2 billion by 1990, from 22 per cent at present to about 30 per cent.

Yet its management team, led by Mr Peter Dodd, the chief executive, does not believe there is anything unfair about the proposal. The assets belong to the pharmacists. We simply propose to hand them over.

Mr William Pybus, the chairman of AAE, welcomed the news that his Vetric business would be competing with Unichem "on an equal basis." But, he added: "We must recognize the dangers presented by these inducements to Unichem customers.

We shall go straight into action to counter this move."

Unichem was founded as a public company in 1938, but transformed itself into an industrial and provident society in 1969. It is owned by its 4,200 or so pharmaceutical retail customers, who hold shares depending on the number of their outlets. But the £1 shares cannot be traded. On leaving the society members must withdraw their shares.

Since 1971, when Unichem came closest to failing completely, turnover has grown from £8.4 million to £493 million in 1986. Profits in 1986 were £40.2 million, although £34.8 million of this was distributed to its shareholder members as profit-share entitlement. Had Unichem been a public company, this would have been paid out in discounts to customers. Unichem's proposals will more than double the size of its share capital between now and 1990. An additional 4.5 million shares will be made available in three annual tranches.

## Coates calls a halt to share trading

Coates Brothers, the manufacturer of printing ink in which Adelaide Steamship, the Australian investment group, has a 20 per cent stake, yesterday called a halt to trading in its shares "pending the announcement of a significant transaction." Details are likely tomorrow.

With the voting shares, 50 per cent owned by the Coates family, standing at 33p, and the non-voting A shares at 25p, the company is valued at about £115 million.

There was speculation yesterday that the suspension could involve a change to the outdated two-tier voting structure.

## No referrals

Lord Young of Grafton, the Trade Secretary, has decided not to refer to the Monopolies Commission the acquisition by the General Electric Co of Gilbarco Inc, and the acquisition by BTR of Stewart Warner Corporation.

## Hogg buy

Hogg Robinson, the travel and estate agency group, has bought Alander Travel World for £340,000. Alander is a travel agent with six outlets in West Scotland. The price will be met mainly in shares and £34,000 cash.

## Fairfax loan talks fail to end dispute

From Richard Bentley, Sydney

Tripartite talks between Australia's top commercial banks yesterday failed to resolve a public dispute over an A\$300 million (£115 million) loan to John Fairfax, the publishing company.

The representatives of the National Australia Bank and Westpac, which each lent A\$150 million to fund the purchase of the Melbourne television station, Channel 7, last year, met their ANZ counterparts here in a bid to determine priority of funds from a recent Fairfax assets sale.

NAB and Westpac are suing Fairfax for immediate repayment. They are concerned that

## Opec topped output ceilings, says survey

(Brent) - The average crude oil output last month for the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is estimated at 18.35 million barrels a day, unchanged from the November estimate and 1.75 million bpd above its ceiling for the second half of last year, a Reuters survey shows.

The estimates were polled from oil traders, shipping sources, industry executives and analysts.

At the end of the Opec meeting on December 14, Mr Rikman Lukman, the Opec president and Nigerian oil minister, said group output was below 17.5 million and 18 million bpd.

Some members had been producing above their Opec-assigned quotas, Mr Lukman said, although they had pledged to curb output. Excess Opec output has weakened oil prices since August.

Since the Opec meeting, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait have announced output cuts, effective from January 1. Abu Dhabi, the largest producer in the UAE, has told oil companies it would reduce output by about 400,000 bpd, while Kuwait, after admitting overproduction of 100,000-150,000 bpd, said it would adhere to its quota.

Iraq was not given a quota

for the first half of 1988 but is not entitled to overproduce, Mr Lukman said.

Iraq is believed to have told Opec it would reduce output, analysts said. At the Opec meeting, Iraq said it was producing 2.83 million bpd. But average December production is estimated at 2.6 million bpd.

Iraq had a quota of 1.54 million bpd for the second half of last year, which it does not recognize as does not match Iran's 2.369 million bpd.

Saudi Arabian output is put at 4.4 million bpd, including Neutral Zone output, slightly below its 4.343 million quota. (Output of about 300,000 bpd from the Neutral Zone, shared equally with Kuwait, is not counted for Opec quota purposes.)

There were both higher and lower estimates of Saudi output in December, partly reflecting differing opinions about whether or not Saudi Arabia had offered, or was about to offer, inducements to the Aramco Corp partners - Exxon, Texaco, Mobil and Chevron - to maintain volume.

Earlier reports that Riyadh had offered rebates to Aramco resurged, as did speculation that the 26 cent a barrel fee

paid to the partners for operating Aramco assets on behalf of the Kingdom had been raised to about 70 cents.

Some observers were sceptical about such reports.

Mr Humphrey Harrison, an oil analyst at Banque Paribas Capital Markets, said that as "the Saudis appear to have exerted pressure on the UAE, Kuwait and Iraq to curb output, it is difficult to believe they would then undermine the price themselves."

However, as Saudi Arabia had said prices would recover if Opec members adhered strictly to output quotas, they could take the view that a temporary discount of some kind would not, of itself, undermine the market, Mr Harrison added.

Estimates that Saudi Arabia had produced at quota could also be accounted for by movements into storage. One oil company analyst estimated Saudi overseas stocks last month at about 20 million barrels. This represents an increase from estimates of autumn stock levels of about 16 million to 18 million barrels.

UAE output was 1.6 million bpd. Abu Dhabi pumped about 1.3 million bpd and Dubai 350,000 bpd. The UAE's quota is 948,000 bpd.

## Making his mark

A likely government minister of the future has just joined the board at City merchant bank Leopold Joseph. Mark Robinson, who celebrated his 41st birthday on Boxing Day, has been made a director of the bank barely four months after joining. But, there again, he is by now used to spinning up the ladder of success. An Oxford graduate and barrister, he served first in the Secretary General's office at the UN, under Kurt Waldheim, and then as an assistant director of the Commonwealth Secretariat, before making his debut in Parliament. Elected Conservative member for Newport, South Wales - a traditional Labour stronghold - in 1983, he served four years until Labour regained control last year. During his brief spell in the corridors of power he joined a foreign affairs select committee - a rare honour for a new member - scrutinizing Granada, became PPS to Nicholas Edwards, then Secretary of State for Wales, and, for his final two years, was promoted to the position of Under Secretary of State for Wales. "Merchant banking is something completely new to me," he says, "but after all that time reading complicated papers through the night, I've been helping Leopold Joseph comply with the requirements of the Financial Services Act. I've also been doing corporate finance work." But politics will not, he thinks, be out of his life for long. "I've been taken on in the full knowledge that if an opportunity presents

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Too much talent

The newly enlarged NatWest investment subsidiary, neatly (2) renamed County NatWest Securities, incorporating Wood Mackenzie, is a case of too much of a good thing in certain quarters. County already employs eccentric building industry guru Angus Phares, voted number one sector analyst with additional star rating in last year's Etsel survey, while Wood Mac enjoyed the services of the young, upwardly mobile trio, Jamie Stevenson, Andy Bell and

Khalid Nizir - rated number three in the same survey and rising. No doubt keen to avoid a clash of expertise, the Wood Mac team is, I hear, moving to Kleinwort. Grievously, Kleinwort has been without a sector specialist since the autumn when Andrew McIntosh left for Warburg Securities. The parting has, I understand, been wholly amicable, though the departures are being made to "sit in the garden" for the statutory three-month notice period.

itself I might return to Parliament. Either way it should be an association that is mutually beneficial.



"Diary from my thoughtful broker - absolutely no sign of October 19, 1988"

### On target

So much for retirement. Bill Bowman, former chairman of ad agency Roys McCann, who retired last April at the ripe old age of 58, this month took on the chairmanship of Covent Garden Market Authority - bringing his total of current chairmanships to five, with three directorships on top. Now back to working six full days a week, Bowman told me from his Buckinghamshire home: "I was looking forward to dabbling at something for two days a week. Now I find I'm working as hard as ever but really enjoying it."

British Telecom celebrates the 50th anniversary of the 999 emergency call service on Friday. At least it is one service which must public call boxes still offer.

## Market moan

Market-makers who had to keep their trading books open for eight hours on New Year's Eve, even though it was one of the quietest days of 1987 with a near record low of 229 million shares traded, are grumbling that their request for early closing that day was ignored. With one leading firm doing just one bargain in the first half-hour, three of the biggest players, Warburg Securities, Smith New Court and BZW, requested, in union, that the trading day be curtailed. "We asked the Exchange at 9.30am and they promised a decision by midday," says one moaning market man. "We heard nothing and rang back at 2pm only to be told by a secretary that they had all gone home." "Not true," says the Exchange. "Our market supervision department did speak to several market-makers that morning but they explained that it was very difficult to close the market early without advance notice. Options and futures in Foutie are traded all day and lots of fund managers need 5pm prices for their year-end calculations." And they were all there until 5pm.

In search of a last minute stocking filler, Ann Wildcombe, the Tory MP for Maidstone, popped into the House of Commons shop just before Christmas to buy a tin of hampers. But they had sold out. As she left she bumped into the Speaker, Bernard Weatherill. "The House has no hampers," she complained. "Never mind, it's still got plenty of fudge," he replied.

Carol Leonard

## NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS

The Ville de Paris is planning to build a new bridge over the Seine above the pont d'Austerlitz and is inviting applications for the competition for the design of this work.

From the 4th to the 29th January 1988, architects, engineering offices and engineers of member countries of the European Economic Community are invited to obtain an application file from:

Monsieur l'ingénieur en Chef de la Section Projets  
10 bis, boulevard de la Bastille, 75012 PARIS  
Tél.: 16.1.42.76.51.94.

Their application file must be sent in by the 12th February 1988.

The legal text of the public invitation for applications is published in the Moniteur des Travaux Publics (FRANCE) and the Official Journal of the European Communities on the 24th and 31st December 1987.



## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Starting Index compared with 1975 was up at 75.9 (day's range 75.5-75.9).

## STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for January 4

	Range	Close	1 month	3 months
New York	1.8585-1.8765	1.8720-1.8730	0.28-0.29	0.58-0.60
Montreal	2.4235-2.4404	2.4371-2.4349	0.10-0.10	0.26-0.26
Australia	3.2698-3.2688	3.2693-3.2689	1% 1/4	0.7940-0.7930
Brussels	51.84-62.35	62.23-62.35	50-50pp	44-11pp
Copenhagen	11.3911-11.4394	11.4348-11.4384	10-10pp	8-25pp
Hong Kong	1.11-1.12	1.1150-1.1150	50-50	50-50
Frankfurt	2.5325-2.5771	2.5757-2.5771	1% 1/4	4% 3/4
Lithuania	254.7-258.50	257.63-258.74	47-100pp	50-50
London	1.8585-1.8765	1.8720-1.8730	0.28-0.29	0.58-0.60
Madrid	219.71-219.89	219.71-219.89	0-20	10-21
Osaka	11.8224-11.8175	11.8234-11.8219	1% 1/4	1% 1/4
Stockholm	10.505-10.517	10.5075-10.5077	1% 1/4	1% 1/4
Tokyo	10.8301-10.8771	10.8437-10.8587	1% 1/4	1% 1/4
Yokohama	22.00-24.94	22.01-20.94	8% 1/4	24% 1/4
Zurich	2.5667-2.4717	2.4130-2.4130	1% 1/4	5% 3/4

Premiums in pips. Discount in cts.

## OTHER STERLING RATES

Australia a/cmt	9.4895-9.5872
Australia dollar	2.5599-2.5591
Bahrain dir.	0.7940-0.7930
Barbados c/d	184.25-125.25
Ceylon p/cmt	2.9100-0.0200
Philippine pesos	7.9175-7.9575
Ghana c/d	225.00-227.00
India rupee	24.50-24.25
Hong Kong dollar	14.5890-14.5450
Kenya sh.	5.0000-5.0000
Kuwait dir. (K)	0.5025-0.5065
Malay dollar	5.0000-5.0000
Malta p/cmt	0.11-0.21
New Zealand dollar	2.2371-2.2473
Qatar riyal	10.0000-10.0000
Singapore dollar	2.7450-2.7450
Sri Lanka r/cmt	5.7894-5.7894
Sri Lanka r/cmt	3.5575-3.5575
U.A.E. dirham	6.8575-6.8575

\*London Rate. Rates supplied by Royal and Bergley Bank FIOREX

## DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Iceland	1.8715-1.8730	Denmark	8.1004-8.1050	Italy	1169.0-1170.0
Singapore	5.0000-2.0010	W Germany	1.5383-1.5350	Belgium (Com)	33.14-33.17
Malaysia	2.4240-2.4250	Switzerland	1.2825-1.2875	Hong Kong	7.7950-7.7890
Canada	1.2500-1.2500	France	7.75-7.75	Portugal	10.00-15.10
Spain	165.00-165.00	Spain	5.9710-5.9710	Spain	108.30-108.40
Sweden	5.2755-5.2775	Japan	122.85-122.85	Austria	11.15-11.17
Norway	2.4150-2.4150				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank FIOREX and Esol.

## MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates: % Clearing Banks % Finance Has %

Discount Market (Discount %)

Overnight 1/8% 7 1/4 Week bank 3/4%

Treasury Bills (Discount %)

Priming 2 1/8% - 3/4% 3 1/8% - 3/4%

Selling 2 1/8% - 3/4% 3 1/8% - 3/4%

Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)

1 1/8% 3/4% 2 1/8% 3/4% 3 1/8% 3/4% 3/4%

Trade Bills (Discount %)

1 1/8% 3/4% 2 1/8% 3/4% 3 1/8% 3/4%

Interbank (%): Overnight open 3/4% close 1/8%

1 week 3/4% 1 1/8% 3/4% 3 1/8% 3/4%

2 weeks 3/4% 1 1/8% 3/4% 3 1/8% 3/4%

Local Authority Deposits (%)

2 day 3/4% 7 day 3/4% 1 1/8% 3/4%

Local Authority Bonds (%)

1 1/8% 3/4% 2 1/8% 3/4% 3 1/8% 3/4%

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Edited by Matthew May

## COMPUTER HORIZONS

## Europeans out to topple US giants

This could be a bumper year for Britain and Europe if the predictions of one American expert are born out.

John Levinson predicts that this year will see Europe building better computers than the US and forecasts the decline of the traditional large American computer companies like IBM, Unisys and Digital Equipment.

Mr Levinson is the writer of a Goldman Sachs research report on the microcomputer industry outlook.

He says that in the past most firms chose computer suppliers because they were "safe choices". What made them safe was longevity and size. A large, well-established seller could offer so-called integration and a lot of software.

But now, standard operating systems mean that customers can get the software from anybody. The Europeans have been pushing the Unix operating system, for example, much harder than the traditional American suppliers. This

will give them an edge this year, argues Mr Levinson. Even the concept of integration, which used to favour the big Americans, has taken on a new dimension, he says. "You now have to integrate systems on machines from different sellers, often in networks that cover several countries."

Again, open standards are needed, and after years of committee meetings and political battles, it is Europe which is closest to seeing those standards in place.

Large customers, including Boeing, Ford, General Motors, Schlumberger and Volkswagen, along with most European governments, and even the US Air Force, are loudly demanding standards that will erase the ability of manufacturers to lock customers into one particular brand of equipment. And it is Europe which has responded most to this push from customers.

The other major factor for change is that powerful microcomputers are increasingly eclipsing mini-

## THE YEAR

By Richard Sarsen

computers and with the emergence of parallel processors many believe they could soon overtake mainframes as well.

Micros sell for under £3,000 per mip — million instructions per second — while Digital Equipment's minicomputers, for example, sell

## Ever-present chips from new companies will dominate market

for more than £30,000 per mip and IBM's mainframes for more than £70,000 per mip.

While speed of processing is not everything and the figures are not directly comparable, there is still an immense gap after making allowances for other factors.

New companies selling multi microprocessors, based on the ever-present Intel chips, or the newer British transputer architectures will, it is argued, soon dominate the industry.

The problem for the established companies is that if one of them "came up with a cutting edge line of micros and pushed it aggressively into existing and new markets, the impact on that company's financial statements would be catastrophic because each salesman would have to sell five to 10 times as much for the same money."

Besides, says Mr Levinson, their infrastructure and culture will make it hard for them to adapt. He lists some of the companies who will find it hardest, including Digital Equipment, Data General, IBM, Norsk Data, Prime, Unisys and Wang.

The companies best geared to win are AT&T, Hewlett-Packard, Nixdorf, Sun, Sequent and Olivetti. Some companies, such as NCR,

Siemens, Stratus and Tandem will be little affected, he says, because they are selling mainly to specialist markets, driven more by special software than hardware price-performance.

ICL is seen as still having too much revenue bound up in mainframes, but Mr Levinson notes that the firm expects to be 20 per cent Unix-based within 12-18 months.

The report also praises European companies for being diversified conglomerates. This smoothes over the cashflows needed for their computer division to make drastic changes, it argues.

Mr Levinson applauds their willingness to find partners for new ventures, and to buy in technology from elsewhere.

He claims that American firms still suffer from a "not invented here" attitude, which makes them "reluctant to do most things involving their core products themselves".

## Costly, and you have to learn the language

## JOBSCENE

By Caroline Bernas

In West Germany they have never heard of Norman Tebbit's "On Your Bike". People don't move from Hamburg to Munich in the way they would move from Manchester to London. Many are born, grow up, go to university, marry and have a family in the same town.

Because people aren't mobile in an expanding economy, it is difficult for companies to recruit data processing staff. Neither is there any salary incentive to change jobs.

There is little difference in the computing salaries paid by different companies around the country. This is why many German organisations are now trying to recruit British data processing staff.

Brian Harris, director of OOC, specialists in recruiting computer staff for German organisations. But he says there are many misconceptions about working in Germany. First the money.

Although salaries are higher, the cost of living and also the taxes are high. The average programmer is unlikely to be much better off.

A graduate programmer aged 25 with four years' experience may earn £15,000 in London, with take home pay of £11,000, but he would have to earn DM65,000 (£21,000) to equal this, after tax, in Germany, and the going rate for the job in Germany is usually DM60,000 (£19,000).

Although German graduates straight out of university are better paid than in the UK, the salary progression isn't as steep and there is little salary inflation. In Germany students leave university and immediately start earning £17,000 in computing jobs, according to Mr Harris.

"We don't sell the notion of going abroad," he said. People need a strong motivation for going there. The motivation may be to be able to sit at weekends, to broaden one's cultural outlook or because of a romantic attachment. Salary isn't the strongest reason for going.

German companies prefer to employ young single people, aged 26 to 30, because they don't want raw beginners and there are high employers' contributions for any married employees. "The companies take the view that the single person has less on his mind and costs less," said Mr Harris.

Language is the big divide. If you speak German and your skills are in demand, you can find a job anywhere. You'll find no prejudice and you have the advantage over the Germans of being mobile. If not, then you're restricted.

to multi-nationals where English is the working language. In the technical field there are many more jobs for non-German-speaking British. There are jobs in areas such as military systems, process control, artificial intelligence, CAD/CAM and communications.

In mainstream data processing there's more emphasis on being able to speak German because you must be able to talk to users.

For the more senior jobs, speaking German is essential, but not so at junior levels, according to Mr Schrader. Germans are keen that if you don't speak the language then you should learn it, and most will pay 80 per cent of the cost of the language course. "If people don't learn the language, they may be able to do the work but will be limited socially," he said.

Most of the UK recruits don't speak German. "Our academic system doesn't produce joint scientists and linguists. We produced excellent software engineers, but these skills can't be communicated," lamented Mr Harris.

Analyst programmers and software engineers are in demand — not operators or managers.

## German is essential for the top jobs

For contract staff, the going rate for a software engineer with three to four years' experience is £25 per hour, or £1,000 per week. But he may not be much better off because in the UK he could earn £750 per week as a contractor. And if he's going to spend money travelling back and forth to England, he may be a lot worse off.

One thing to be wary of, while working in Germany, is that there is some cultural nationalism. The nicest places to live — such as Bavaria — are the most culturally aggressive. Little English is spoken there and no allowances are made for foreigners.

Housing can also be a big problem in Germany. Rented accommodation is unfurnished — and that means unfurnished down to no cupboards in the kitchen, and no light fittings. It is very expensive to set up home in Germany, especially for the short term.

The positive points are that Germans have five or six weeks' holiday per year, and twice as many statutory holidays. They have 13 pay months a year, with two months being paid at Christmas.

## Telex taken over by rivals in £500m deal

The Telex Corporation agreed last month to be acquired by Memorex International, a rival computer equipment maker, in a deal valued at nearly £500 million. The deal concludes Telex's two-month effort to elude a takeover by the New York financier, Asher Edelman.

Memorex, a former subsidiary of Burroughs, is privately owned and has its headquarters in The Netherlands. Telex and Memorex are two leading producers of terminals, controller and printers that can be attached to computer terminals made by IBM.

The combined turnovers of the two companies will put them in the top 20 computer enterprises in the world and could shake up the way that firms at the top end of the market think about doing business.

In Telex, Memorex is gaining a partner with a strong history in both data and telecommunications equipment as well as computer terminals and office automation products.

It follows recent bids by both IBM and DEC to gain more communications expertise, the former through its purchase in 1986 of communications specialists Rolm and the latter through software and hardware developments around the new ISDN telecommunications standard.

20Mb to take away... Toshiba's T1200, leading the laptop "best seller" list, is available today from Morse at a scandalously low price. Complete with 20Mb hard disk, 3 1/2" disk drive, 1Mb of RAM, NiCad batteries, mains unit and DOS; the T1200 knocks the competition for six megabytes. Call for price, immediately.

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## Morse Software Hot List

- |                             |      |                            |      |
|-----------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|
| 1. Lotus 1-2-3 (RFP) £395   | 235  | 8. Norton Utilities (£75)  | 250  |
| 2. Word Perfect 4.2 (£425)  | 250  | 9. Harvard Graphics (£395) | 225  |
| 3. dBASE III Plus (£595)    | 2400 | 10. WordStar Pro. 4 (£399) | 250  |
| 4. Borland Quattro (£199)   | 595  | 11. Smart System (£695)    | 2430 |
| 5. Multimate Adv. II (£495) | 2325 | 12. Portex SE (£129)       | 295  |
| 6. Microsoft Excel (£395)   | 2260 | 13. MS Windows 2 (£75)     | 250  |
| 7. Symphony (£550)          | 2350 | 14. Framework II (£550)    | 2305 |

## Bright New Year for PCs

By Beatrice Motamedi

The computer industry is optimistic about the prospects for 1988, spurred by a new generation of sophisticated personal computers that are changing the way people approach technology.

The industry last year emerged from the doldrums of 1986, launching a spate of chips, computers and software.

Many computer makers, including Apple and Compaq, said they expect industry sales to grow between 20 per cent and 30 per cent next year. Others are more modest.

However, most agree that much of next year's growth will be in personal computers with a new, stronger and more flexible generation of machines, with widespread applications in business and education.

The most important development of 1987 is generally considered to have been IBM's introduction of a new family of personal computers, the PS-2 line, along with the announcement of a new operating system, called OS-2, that allows the machines simultaneously to run several programs.

A close second was Apple, which in March launched its Macintosh SE and Macintosh II, with "user-friendly" software, colour and graphics capabilities that are aimed at prising apart IBM's hold on business buyers.

The wave of new machines, along with advances in semiconductor technology and software, have made personal computers an increasingly attractive alternative to bulky mainframes.

A new generation of computer chips also greatly expanded the reach of personal computers by packing mainframe power into desktop units.

Intel stole the spotlight with its high-powered 286 and 386 microprocessors, which became the brains of computers produced by IBM, Compaq and others.

Not to be outdone, Motorola recently introduced the 68020, an improved version of its best-selling chip, that the company says provides more power at lower cost. (UPI)



## Body X-rays shown up in 3-D

By Robert Matthews

A technique for turning flat X-ray pictures of the body into extraordinarily detailed three-dimensional images has been developed by computer scientists at General Electric in America, (as shown above).

Using new high-speed algorithms invented by the company, the process converts data taken on a "computed tomography" (CT) X-ray machine into 3-D images in five minutes, and gives what GE says is "the most accurate and detailed look yet into the human body".

The exact position of the surface of the part of the body being imaged is plotted

by an algorithm that breaks up the entire scan into cubes.

Traditional algorithms do not give as much detail, says GE, and often have jagged edges and other software artifacts which make the image appear as if it is being seen through a venetian blind.

To improve the clarity of the final picture further, the GE researchers have also taken a new look at the problem of shading the image. Usually, shading is done by estimating how the light would fall on surfaces from the model after it was created, instead of working with the original data.

GE says it has got better results by illuminating the image, according to the

orientation of the surface as given by the data. Points facing the screen are the brightest, growing darker as they rotate away from the front.

The result is more than just a pretty picture, however. "Once a 3-D image of a head or body organ is captured in the computer's memory, a physician can easily manipulate the picture," says Dr Rowland Redington, manager of the Medical Diagnostic Systems branch at the company's R&D centre at Schenectady, New York State.

This allows surgeons to plan their work before an operation in much the same way as engineers test new designs on a computer before a single part of it is ever built.

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## COMPUTER APPOINTMENTS

Control Data Institute

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Control Data Institute, one of the largest of the computing training organisations, will be running a 20-week Real-time programming course in the London area.

If you have technical or scientific background and are educated to 'A' level standard, aged between 20 and 35 years, you may be eligible for a training allowance under the Manpower Services Commission adult training programme. Currently 80-90% of trainees obtain employment within 3 months of graduating.

If you feel you have the qualities to succeed please contact us immediately on:

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Please quote RTP 38

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## HORIZONS

A guide to  
career opportunities

## Sending artists to market

"I started as a lawyer," says Nicholas Durbridge, "and while I was working as an art dealer, one day my principal called me in and said: 'We have a client called Michael Bond, who has written some book about a bear. Would you like to draw up a licensing agreement, because he is going to try to market the animal?'"

The animal was, of course, the great and famous Paddington, now nearly 30 years old. Nicholas Durbridge, though he did not realize it, had started on a new career.

Paddington appeared on TV in 1975, but as Mr Durbridge explains: "The BBC are such poor payers, you never even make your production costs, so you have to go into merchandising."

In 1975-76 there was a huge growth in the Paddington business, and Michael Bond found himself rushing from one business meeting to another. "He decided this was crazy," said Mr Durbridge, "so in 1977 he asked me if I would look after him." In 1977 they set up a full-time licensing operation and Nicholas became managing director of Paddington and Co.

Paddington continued to grow, not only in this country but in Australia, the US and Japan (where he is particularly beloved of teenage girls). A Japanese bank also loves him, using the character to promote accounts with Paddington telephone cards.

Durbridge and Bond then set up another division called Copyrights, to look after other artists and non-bear items. Linda Pooley, who had handled the foreign rights on children's books for the publishers Collins, joined them. Mr Durbridge said: "In 1984 Copyrights became a separate company - we bought out Michael on an entirely amicable basis - he's still a director and close associate." Linda and Nicholas married ("an unexpected by-product").

Licensing in this country is very much directed towards toys. Everyone remembers the Wombles, who appeared in 1974 and were, according to the Durbridges, merchandised to death. The most famous product of all is Walt Disney (whose organization keeps an eagle eye out for unlicensed use of his famous characters) and *The Diary of a Country Lady* has proved surprisingly durable.

Paddington is, of course,



"Jungle Queen" from The Imagined World of Fleur Cowles

Licensing merchandise can require a great deal of business drive and skill, says Philippa Toomey

rather expensive to make, with the boots and the hat and the wigs.

"Two-thirds of our business is in the classics, like Beatrix Potter, and Raymond Briggs' Snowman, and his louché character, Fungus the Bogymen. One-third is fine-art licensing, which is where we have *The Imagined World of Fleur Cowles*, for example."

"We're very selective; we have only 20 clients at the moment, and we don't take on anyone whose work we don't personally like. We are the classic middlemen. It is important we have good clients, because you are only as good as your clients."

*The Imagined World of Fleur Cowles* is a good example. Writer, editor and artist, Fleur is well-known for a very personal, brilliant style which involves the painting of bright flowers, with members of the greater cats - the garlanded tiger, cheetah and leopard, a lion in a garden.

Translating this vision into fine bone-china figures, by Border Fine Arts Finesse, took time. Fleur Cowles contacted Copyrights, and they made some unsuccessful experiments with other media, settling on bone china.

The process took 2½ years, resulting in limited editions of 300 for Tiger Flower, Jungle Queen, King and Rajah, and (unlimited) single flowers in or on which nestle or perch miniature jungle cats.

Marketing can be difficult if, as is customary, manufacturers

are men. "The people who make the decisions are all men, and sales staff are too. They kept saying things like 'why do we have to have tigers with flowers, why can't we have one or the other?' Fortunately the public has thought otherwise."

"Often, if manufacturers have not seen something on TV, they are not interested. Brambly Hedge (not appearing on TV) is the delightful creation of Jill Barklem, an artist whose four little books on the quiet lives of country mice, sets of stationery and Royal Doulton figures are part of a huge business. There was considerable reluctance to take white chocolate Snowman from the retail end - but it turned out a great success."

"It's surprising how many people are not visually literate," says Linda Pooley. "Artists haven't a clue about the value of their work - they don't value themselves, or their work. We spend time convincing them that they are marvellous, and that artwork that they sell for £70 can be worth hundreds. They are very bad at assigning their copyright, and keep losing their originals."

Copyrights gets a percentage of royalties (the only business, as Nicholas Durbridge puts it, still with retail price maintenance); the royalty is paid on the retail selling price.

Half the business, they find, is overseas. They go to the US seven or eight times a year. They did all the presentation themselves to 134 department stores, putting on a Beatrix Potter promotion, and last year the Snowman pretty well took over a Selfridges window. They have a 4,500 sq ft exhibition space with large, animated scenes, and a Snowman shop, attracting a record attendance of 374,908.

They have a busy round of trade fairs, in Harrogate, Birmingham, Paris, Frankfurt, Bologna, New York (for gifts and ceramics), Paris (stationery and children's clothes); the Nursery and Pram Shop, Decor, the Blackpool Shoe and Slipper Fair (Little Grey Rabbit slippers are popular).

Much of the china produced is hand-painted - a plate, for example, can go 48 times through the machine. They can be quite firm about saying no, as well. Paddington bed linen, yes, but Paddington carpet, no. What more will they do with Fungus the Bogymen? Certainly not material for the grocer at Selfridges, but you never know.

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INTERESTED? Telephone: Beverley Smith on Colchester (0206) 712246 for further details and an application form, or write to Personnel Section, Town Hall, High Street, Colchester CO1 1PJ.

Closing date: 12th February, 1988.

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FURTHER DETAILS available from the Personnel Manager, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 2AJ (telephone 0256 56222 ext. 435). Applications in own style but with a detailed C.V. to be received by 25th January, 1988. Interviews will take place during the week commencing 22nd February.

**BASINGSTOKE & DEANE** borough council

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Application forms, job descriptions and further information may be obtained from the Chief Personnel Officer (Telephone 23141 ext. 405/4053), or by calling at City Square, Dundee. Completed forms should be returned to the original source not later than 22nd January 1988.

If you would like to find out a bit more about the post, call Mr. William Miller, Chief Personnel Officer on 0382 23141 ext. 4358, or Mr. Kenneth Martin, Principal Personnel Officer on ext. 4438 for an informal chat.

As part of the City of Dundee District Council Equal Opportunity Policy, equalities are welcome from persons regardless of disability, marital status, race, or sex.

JAMES F. MOY,  
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City Chambers,  
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## LEGAL

### KEEPING THE LEGAL PROFESSION PROFESSIONAL

The Solicitors Complaints Bureau was set up by the Law Society in 1986 to improve the independence and quality of the handling of complaints against solicitors. Joining the Bureau offers an opportunity to play an important role in the legal profession's efforts to seek and maintain a standard of excellence.

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The Bureau has vacancies for three Report Writers to consider solicitors' files called in for examination where it is alleged that the work was not of a reasonable quality. As a Report Writer you will prepare reports on solicitors' files recommending appropriate action. These reports must be accurate, thorough and balanced and a clear and concise analysis of each case is essential. Where the work is not up to an acceptable standard you will recommend whether the solicitor's bill of costs should be reviewed or action taken to rectify any mistakes.

Applicants should be admitted Solicitors or Legal Executives with some ten years' private practice experience and with a wide knowledge of the law and preferably with specialist experience in at least one area.

Salaries on appointment will be appropriate to your experience. All posts are at the Bureau's office in London, SW1.

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The Bureau also has vacancies for two Investigation Officers who may be admitted or unadmitted. If you are admitted then you should have had at least 2 years' private practice experience. In the case of unadmitted applicants, a record of significant experience in private practice is required and preference will be given to law graduates.

Investigation Officers process complaints, primarily by correspondence, from initial analysis to final disposal. Where necessary this will involve presentation to either or both Committees of the Bureau and also instructing the Bureau's solicitors and other agents.

On a personal level, an Investigation Officer must be articulate, tactful and capable of working in a team environment. Analytical skills and human comprehension together with personal integrity and dedication are required in a considerable measure.

The initial salary offered on appointment is up to £18,500 pa depending upon experience and qualifications. All posts are at the Bureau's office in London SW1.

If you have the qualities for these appointments and you would like to be able to make an important contribution to the wellbeing of the profession then please write, enclosing your cv to Roger Woodley, Personnel Controller, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL.

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Closing date 22nd January 1988

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For an informal chat about the job, please contact Ivan Harrison, Ext. 3622.

More details and an application form, please write to: The County Solicitors, Station, County Hall, Barnsley, North Yorkshire, HU1 1BA, or telephone (0482) 667121, Ext. 3404. Post Box ACLA. Closing Date: 22nd January, 1988.

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management opportunities

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### MANAGER, MARIE STOPES

NURSING HOME,

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Please send full CV, indicating for which post you are applying, to the Personnel Manager, Marie Stopes House, 168 White Street, London W1P 6SE. Closing date, January 20th 1988.

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The Society is a nationwide charitable organisation whose objectives are to promote and encourage research and to provide a welfare and support service, both practical and emotional, for families and sufferers of multiple sclerosis.

You do not need to know anything about this distressing condition; nor do you need to be a nurse or have any secretarial skills. What is vital is your ability to listen well, to organise well, and to offer practical and sympathetic advice.

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Applicants for this challenging general management post must be corporate members of the Institution of Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Electronic and Radio Engineers, or the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, the Chartered Institute of Building (post 1985) or a registered architect.

Job descriptions and further details of the District may be obtained from

District Personnel Officer

36 Orchard Street,

Sutton, Surrey.

Mr. A.J. Baddow, the Board Member responsible for Planning issues would be glad to deal with informal enquiries and is available on Saturdays 458056 ext 304.

The closing date for applications is 31st January 1988.

## COMPUTER APPOINTMENTS

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Further particulars may be obtained from Mr. J. E. Reilly, Secretary of Faculties and Deputy Registrar, University of Kent at Canterbury, The Registry, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7NZ. The closing date for applications is 29th January 1988. Please quote reference No. A88/31.

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£8,790 - £11,905 and £8,988 - £12,076 from 1st February, 1988

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There are social and environmental benefits of working in a beautiful part of the country. For informal discussions please contact John Addison on Telford 54371.

Application forms and job description from the Director of Social Services, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Telephone 0743 253712. Closing date 14th January, 1988.

## FIELD OFFICER

required for the Redundant Churches Fund to report regularly on the condition of up to 100 churches in East Anglia and Yorkshire and to promote their accessibility to the community and other visitors.

Candidates should be knowledgeable about old buildings and enthusiastic about their conservation, resident in the relevant area and able to work on their own.

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Please apply giving details of career and basic biographical information to Anthony Barnes, Redundant Churches Fund, St. Andrew by the Wardrobe, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 5DE.

## ADMINISTRATORS

or Operations Managers with

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West London, Dec 1987/Jan 1988

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In a sport where life is a gamble, one racing driver has spent the last six years defying the age barrier

# Bell unsure when time will take its toll

By April Tod

In today's world of highly competitive sport, few men or women stay at their peaks after 30 and even fewer after 40. The more demanding the sport, the less likely the chances of remaining in the top echelon.

Britain's top motor racing driver, Derek Bell, contradicts all such arguments. At the age of 46, he is enjoying the pinnacle of his racing career. The competitive years since he turned 40 have been his most successful, most satisfying, most exciting.

Now he is reaching the most difficult point in that career — coming to terms with eventual retirement. For the past 30 years, motor racing has been a part of his existence. He has won innumerable sports car and endurance races, including the 24-hour Le Mans classic five times, as well as capturing the tough 24 hours of Daytona two years in succession.

His career has spanned an awesome variety of racing cars, including Formula One, Two and Three. Incredibly, among all those successes, he has never once ended up in hospital badly injured.

Despite growing concern that Bell is perhaps "too old to race", plans are still going ahead for his 1988 season. And there is no lack of offers. "I haven't got a full schedule of programmes at the moment, but there are plenty of opportunities to continue," he says.

"I realize I've had a good innings"

"Basically, the problem is that I find myself in a dilemma as to which car I should drive. Porsche have cut back their racing programme drastically, and if I signed with them it would mean driving the best prepared car for Le Mans, the most important endurance race every team, manufacturer and sponsor want to be involved with. But agreeing to drive for Porsche would limit my chances of driving for any other manufacturer and both Jaguar and Mercedes are interested in signing me up to compete in the full 10 championship races in Europe.

"I already have nine races signed up in the States, but that's only half a racing season, and it is partly for that reason that I'm having so much trouble making up my mind what to do with the rest of the season. The last thing I want is to stand around not knowing what to do for half the year."

Objections to the fact that perhaps he should be cutting down his demanding schedule rather than increasing it, he adds: "I realize I have had a good innings, but since 1981 things could not have gone better. That's everything starting going well for me and for that reason I'm continuing longer than perhaps I really should. Personally, I still feel as competitive as anyone on the track."

As one of the world's top motor racing drivers, Bell realizes the importance of keeping fit, and frequently enjoys a competitive game of tennis with his son, Justin, on a court he had built in his back garden. Justin, who is 19, appears to be following in his father's footsteps and already has a successful Formula Ford season behind him.



Bell the ship-righter: the racing driver spends his off-season converting a wrecked 200-year-old Dutch vessel into an unusual guest-cum-storeroom at his Pagham home

"I don't feel that Justin's racing career will be an extension of my career. I feel it will be more worrying to me watching him than when I was racing. Much that I want him to be a success, I'd rather prefer he took up tennis or gardening."

Like being a star in a movie

"I avoid talking about the future as much as possible. I know it will be very difficult for me to bridge that gap with a sport that has given me so many highs, lows, depressions, failures and successes. I have had a tremendous time, a tremendous record. It will certainly be hard to withdraw."

"When you are on a winning streak, it's like being a star in a movie or on TV. But with a movie star you can carry on until you drop dead — with motor racing you are forced to get out before your time, because there is always someone desperately trying to jump into your driving seat."

But if and when Bell decides to give up motor racing, he has plenty of alternatives and has no intention of disappearing from the public eye. He is running a successful

Porsche precision driving school in the United States as well as acting as chairman for the revamped Racing For Britain, an organization to assist talented young British drivers through their first tough years in motor racing.

"Even when I finally retire from active motor racing, I intend to remain very involved with the sport. I would like to take part in a few rallies, especially the Paris to Dakar, although I have no intention of taking it up as a career. And I am sure I will end up racing occasionally, but then you have to be careful not to get sacked back into the sport again."

Bell has been fortunate during his extensive career to have struck up many a close friendship. "I have always proved to be a good team member, good with sponsors and I have been offered a couple of long-term possibilities to represent these companies as their adviser on motor racing. So there's no shortage of offers. Certainly the last thing I want to do is go back to a nine-to-five job."

Sadly, although that familiar, smiling face will be around motor racing for a long time to come, in the foreseeable future, he will no longer be the adored hero of endurance races.



In a more familiar role, Bell (left) celebrates victory with co-driver Hans Stuck

## BASKETBALL

# Daunting European task faces United

By Nicholas Harling

As though the problems facing Manchester United off court are not bad enough, there are certain to be extra ones on it tonight. No sooner will the club's escalating financial problems have been discussed at today's board meeting than the players will be encountering a soaring crisis of a different nature.

The Yugoslavian giants of Cibona Zagreb would represent tough enough opposition if United had a full squad with which to take them on at Stretford. But without both their Americans, Jim Dolan and Perry Brownell, who are ineligible for the quarter-final pool of the Korac Cup, and with Alton Byrd not fully fit, the hosts are in dire straits.

The pelvic injury afflicting Byrd is almost certain to require surgery. If he does play tonight, it could be his last game for six weeks. In the circumstances, and even if Cibona do rest their outstanding international, Dragan Petrovic, United's best hope is to keep the scoreline more respectable than it was in Yugoslavia last month when they lost by 30 points.

Byrd could afford to sit out Saturday's Carlsberg League game in which United defeated BPOC Rams Derby 106-79, particularly as Derby had already cut their American, Ace Tanner. "Our coach, Clarence Wiggins, felt it was best for him to pursue his dream of playing in the NBA," said Tim Rudge, Derby's general manager of Tanner. "He is as good an athlete as we have seen, but whether he has got the application is another matter."

Wiggins, who had not played in the League for a year, took Tanner's place and started to contribute once his early rustiness had dissolved. Unfortunately for Derby, however, Chrabaszcz (38 points) enjoyed only limited support.

Russ Saunders could probably say the same but his 52 points — now known as Russell Foster Sunderland after a new sponsorship deal — at least earned him the individual scoring record of the season. It also led to defeat by 118-112 for Alphasport Brest. Saunders, a 22-year-old American, Vernon Carr, hit 21 points, two less than in the previous evening's 114-86 home win over Oldham Celts.

In the other two Carlsberg League games, two free throws by Peers four seconds from time gave Bolton victory by 101-100 in a game in which the home side were far too good for Bracknell, winning 108-91.

## Court of Appeal

# Abortion conscience clause limit

*Regina v Salford Health Authority, Ex parte Janaway*  
Before Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Stocker  
[Judgment December 18]

A medical secretary who refused to type a letter referring a patient from a general practitioner to a consultant with a view to the termination of pregnancy was not being required to "participate in any treatment" authorized by the Abortion Act 1967. Accordingly she was not entitled to the protection afforded by the "conscience clause" set out in section 4(1) of that Act.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Mrs Barbara Janaway from Mr Justice Balcombe's decision in *Regina v Salford Health Authority* dismissing her on the ground of her refusal to type a letter, and any such letters, referring patients to a consultant for possible termination of pregnancy, and who had declined to grant a declaration that the typing of such correspondence constituted participating in treatment authorized by the Abortion Act 1967, and that by reason of her conscientious objection to typing such correspondence she was under no contractual duty to carry out such work.

Leave was granted to appeal to the House of Lords.

Section 1 of the Abortion Act 1967 provides: "(1) ... a person shall not be guilty of an offence under the law relating to abortion when a pregnancy is terminated by a registered medical practitioner if two registered medical practitioners are of opinion formed in good faith — (a) that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman or of injury to her physical or mental health or to any existing children of her family greater than if the pregnancy were terminated; or (b) that there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped."

Section 4(1) provides: "... no person shall be under a duty, whether by contract or by any statutory or other legal requirement, to participate in any treatment authorized by this Act to which he has a conscientious objection ..."

Mr Gerard Wright, QC and Mr Patrick Field for Mrs Janaway; Mr John Rowe, QC and Mr Geoffrey Tanshield for the health authority.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE said that the appellant was a Roman Catholic who believed strongly that abortion was morally wrong, the genuineness of her belief being never in dispute. In 1984 she had begun working as a secretary/receptionist at a health centre for a GP. Her employers were the respondent health authority.

In September 1984 she had been asked to type a letter of referral for a patient to see a consultant with a view to the termination of pregnancy as to whether her pregnancy should be terminated.

The appellant refused to type the letter. She told the health authority that she was entitled to refuse by reason of section 4(1) of the Act.

She was dismissed and subsequently she applied for judicial review of the health authority's decision. Mr Justice Nolan refused her application and she appealed.

Ultimately the question arising for the court's decision was whether in being asked to type the letter she was being asked to participate in any treatment authorized by the Act within the meaning of section 4(1).

The first issue of law raised was to what classes of persons did the exemption from criminal liability afforded by section 1 of the 1967 Act apply.

His Lordship accepted Mr Wright's submission that section 1 afforded exemption from criminal liability not only to persons who actually performed the operation at the hospital but also to those who aided, abetted, counselled or procured the operation.

Under the pre-1967 legislation any person who was involved in any of these acts would have been guilty of a criminal offence, subject to the decision in *R v Bourne* (1939) 1 KB 687.

In his Lordship's view it was clear that just as before the coming into operation of the 1967 Act persons might have been guilty of counselling or procuring an abortion even though they were not present in the hospital when the abortion was performed, so such counsellors or procurers might now enjoy the exemption from liability afforded by section 1 of the Act.

The second question of law was what classes of persons possessed the right of conscientious objection afforded by section 4(1).

Mr Rowe submitted that while a number of persons present in the hospital might participate in any given case, no one could be said properly to participate who was not physically present in the hospital. He further suggested that the phrase "participate in treatment" was derived from the Latin for "to take part". *Chambers Dictionary* defined it as "to partake, to have a share" which was close to the definition of *participate* in *Crimes* — "one who although not present helps in any way in

the commission of a crime or who after the deed assists or hides the person who did it": see *Maxwell v DPP for Northern Ireland* (1978) 68 Cr App R 128 per Lord Haleham of Marylebone at p149.

Mr Wright had submitted that it would be remarkable and anomalous if there were a class of persons who might be required directly to concern themselves in the train of events leading up to an abortion and would be exempted from liability by section 1 in doing so, but who nevertheless could not invoke section 4(1). He submitted that section 4(1) should be given a broad and liberal construction.

His Lordship accepted those submissions. He had no difficulty in the concept of a person being required to participate in any treatment even though the treatment itself would not begin until the patient reached hospital and even though the person was not required to be present in hospital when the operation took place. Sections 1(f) and 4(1) were complementary to each other.

His Lordship derived strong support for his view from the observations of Lord Roskill in *Royal College of Nursing v United Kingdom v DHSS* (1981) AC 800, 837-838. In his Lordship's judgment the same people whose acts were rendered lawful by section 1 were given by section 4(1) the right in conscience to object to performing those same acts: the right of conscientious objection to do things (whether as principal, aider or abettor, counsellor or procurer) which could have been unlawful before the coming into effect of the 1967 Act and which were made lawful by that Act.

The third question was whether the appellant was entitled to invoke the right of conscientious objection given by section 4(1). In his Lordship's judgment that depended on whether in being required to type the letter she was being asked to do something which would have been unlawful before the coming into effect of the 1967 Act.

His Lordship concluded that she was not. He was wholly unpersuaded that her mere typing of a letter even before the appellant was being asked to do something which would have been unlawful before the coming into effect of the 1967 Act.

and correspondingly so should his secretary. Likewise, it was said, if the doctor had the benefit of the conscience clause, so had the secretary.

His Lordship rejected that submission. Quite different considerations from those applicable to the secretary applied to the doctor.

In considering her position it could not possibly be said that in typing a letter of referral she was being required to counsel or procure an abortion.

*Mens rea* was a necessary ingredient in procuring (see *Maxwell v DPP for Northern Ireland*, Chief Justice, at p137). Whatever might be said of the doctor to type, she herself typing it would have been merely intending to carry out an obligation of her employment. She would thus not have had the necessary intent to render her a procurer.

For those reasons, His Lordship concluded that the appellant was not being required to participate in any treatment authorized by the Act: the mere typing of such a letter would not have been a criminal offence even under the pre-1967 law.

Views as to the third question would therefore dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said that his initial impression on reading section 4(1) was that of Lord Justice Slade that a participation in hospital treatment required physical presence in hospital.

Unlike Lord Justice Slade, his Lordship was not persuaded that that was not the correct construction. He did not accept that a proper reading of the section required the extended meaning of the word "participate" given to it by the criminal law.

However, if he were wrong on that, he would in any event agree with Lord Justice Slade's view as to the third question and he would dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE STOCKER delivered a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Slade.

Solicitors: Clifford & Co, Manchester; Mr E. G. Jones, Manchester.

The Court of Appeal (Lord

*Schiffshypothekenbank zu Luebeck AG v Compton (The Alexion Hope)*  
Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Nourse  
[Judgment December 18]

"Fire" in a marine insurance policy was not confined to accidental fire but included, at least, a fire started deliberately by a stranger to the insurance.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Mr Norman Philip Compton, a representative underwriter, from Mr Justice Staughton who on October 9, 1986 had determined four preliminary issues in an action by the plaintiff, Schiffshypothekenbank zu Luebeck AG, the mortgagee of *The Alexion Hope*, on a mortgage interest insurance policy.

Mr David Johnson, QC and Mr Bernard Eder for the defendant underwriter; Mr David Steel, QC and Mr Jonathan Gilman for the mortgagee.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that the case was concerned with a new form of insurance. It seemed a pity therefore that the parties should have incorporated their contract in a printed form (the standard "SG Form") which had been described as absurd and incoherent in 1791: see *Brough v Whitmore* (1791) 4 Term Rep 210.

The typed conditions of insurance which comprised the main terms of the contract were known as "Mortgage Insurance Clause 1", which was a translation from the Swedish where those conditions had originated.

The court had been urged to give certain words in the conditions their plain and ordinary meaning. His Lordship did not know whether they had such a meaning in Swedish, but they certainly had no plain and ordinary meaning in English.

The task of construing the contract as a whole against the commercial background was not made easy by the combination of a mediocrity English form with a translation from modern Swedish.

The courts had been protesting for many years about the fact that the printed words of a contract almost in their entirety, but in this case most of the printed words were on view applicable to this policy.

The fire, however caused, was clearly an occurrence within the policy on that construction. If, however, "occurrence" were restricted to SG adventures or perils, it was necessary to consider whether a fire deliberately caused by a shipowner who was not the insured was within those adventures or perils.

The defendant argued that in the case of a peril like fire, which could be started deliberately or accidentally, the insured could recover only if the proximate

cause of the loss were the fire itself rather than the deliberate act of setting the ship on fire.

His Lordship could not accept that argument. No distinction could be drawn between marine and non-marine policies in that connection, and in the context of an ordinary householder's policy it would mean that if an insured set fire to his house through carelessness he could recover but if a neighbour lit through ill-will the insured could not recover.

It was in any event difficult to draw a distinction between setting something on fire and the fire itself as the proximate cause of the loss which followed.

Different considerations might apply in the case of perils of the sea, since they were defined in the rules annexed to the 1906 Act as referring only to fortuitous accidents or casualties of the sea; there was no such limitation in the case of fire. Moreover the defendant's argument would require words to be written into section 55(2)(a) of the 1955 Act.

In *Stature v Mance* (1962) 1 QB 676 Mr Justice Salmon had rightly held that fire, in a marine policy, was not confined to accidental fire. It included a fire deliberately started by a stranger to the insurance, as the owner was in this case. In such a case fire would be the proximate cause of the loss. It was not necessary to decide whether it would also include a fire started deliberately by the insured himself.

The defendant had relied heavily on the speech of Viscount Finlay in *Samuel v Dumas* (1924) AC 431, 459 as authority for the proposition that loss caused by the "wickedness of man" was irrecoverable unless specifically covered by the policy.

However, Viscount Finlay was there dealing with perils of the sea, and his Lordship did not think that he had in mind "intermediate perils", like fire, which could be caused accidentally or deliberately and were

not subject to the limitation imposed on meaning of perils of the sea.

The doubt on that point expressed in *Halsbury's Laws of England*, 4th edition, volume 25, paragraph 184, footnote 5 should have been resolved by *Slattery*, at least as to fire caused by the willful misconduct of a third party.

The defendant's liability arose only after a final court judgment or average adjustment having been passed. In his Lordship's judgment the plaintiff's cause of action arose when an average adjustment had been passed and the defendant had declined to pay; it did not depend on the average adjustment having been accepted as valid by the hull underwriters.

The refusal of hull underwriters to pay after such an adjustment had been issued was conclusive proof as against the defendant of the mortgagee's inability to recover from the hull underwriters, but it would be open to the defendant to challenge their refusal to pay by continuing an action against them in the mortgagee's name.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, concurring, said that the suggestion that a fire deliberately caused by or with the connivance of the owner in respect of which hull underwriters had disclaimed liability was not covered by an insurance the avowed purpose of which was to protect a mortgagee against the loss of his security was preposterous.

LORD JUSTICE PURCHAS, concurring, said that it was to be hoped that in future contracts in this field would be properly drawn and designed for the specific purposes involved, rather than cobbled together by joining two entirely inconsistent sets of contractual terms taken from policies alien to the market in which it was drawn and the purposes for which it had been produced.

Solicitors: Hill Dickinson & Co, Constant & Constant.

## Injunction discharged

*National Dock Labour Board v Salahi Timber Co Ltd and Another*

Where an interlocutory injunction had been granted to prevent an alleged breach by defendants of the Dock Workers Employment Scheme 1967, and an industrial tribunal had subsequently decided that the defendants were not in breach of the scheme, the fact that the National Dock Labour Board intended to appeal the tribunal's decision did not entitle it to have the injunction continued on the basis that it continued to contend that the defendants were in breach of the scheme.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice May and Lord Justice Ewbank) so held on December 18, discharging an interlocutory injunction which it had granted

on July 31 (Lord Justice May and Lord Justice Stephen Brown, *The Times* September 3, 1987).

The defendants, the defendants from, *inter alia*, loading or discharging cargo at a wharf otherwise than in strict compliance with the Dock Workers Employment Scheme 1967.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that an industrial tribunal had on December 9 decided that the defendants were waterside manufacturers and were therefore not obliged to comply with the scheme.

The industrial tribunal was the body specifically charged by Parliament with deciding that question, it having decided the question in favour of the defendants, the rule of law must prevail and they were entitled to have the injunction discharged.







# Giant-killers surrendering to the traffi

He believes that it is more difficult for non-League clubs to perform giant-killing acts today because of the League clubs' better techniques and fitness. "In my day you also had less movement of players around the country, so clubs in out-of-the-way places like Yeovil could hold on to their better players," he said.

Yeovil have an agreement with a developer and the local district council to build a new, 10,000-capacity stadium - for which outline planning permission has already been granted - on a 25-acre site at Houndstone, a former army camp. They plan to develop a sports complex there, with an all-weather pitch outside the main stadium, tennis courts, a sports hall and at least 850 parking spaces. They also hope to set up a football school of excellence, so that talented youngsters can develop their skills locally.

"We will play with a lot of passion, because despite the fact that many of the players don't come from the area, they all regard themselves as Yeovil boys. They're the local heroes: they couldn't go for a drink in the town without being recognized. Rangers are a very quick, flexible side and there are six divisions between us but anything can happen in the Cup — especially at Yeovil."

Looking to the future: Carr



Black Veil's member known



**In touch:** Alec Stock gets

the feet of the monk at Huish

Although the Sunderland result was the most famous Yeovil victory, Stock remembers the 3-1 win against Exeter as the side's greatest performance. "It was the only season division but we were easily the better side the day," he said. "We consistently have won by six goals."

He believes that it is as difficult for now to win a club as it was then. "It's a very tough, very tough-killing game today because of the League clubs' better techniques and fitness. "In my day you could have less movement of players around the country, so clubs out-of-the-way places like Yeovil could hold on to their better players," he said.

## ICE HOCKEY

# Warriors

# regain top place

By Norman de Mesquita

The new year could not be started better for Whitley Warriors. With home wins over Streatham Redskins and A Breils they returned to the top of the premier division of the Hampshire League. As a bonus, Scott Morrison is leading the League list of individual scorers.

Morrison scored 13 goals and eight assists at the weekend to become the first premier division player to score 10 goals. There was also an outstanding individual performance from Fred Pertini, whose five goals and three assists helped the Warriors to beat Durham Wasps 10-0 in the first of a two-month's televised game.

Wasps bounced back on Sunday against the Redskins with Mark Foster, aged 16, the leader from the north east to make

[illegible]







# Orwin is recalled to lead England forwards in Paris

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

England's opening match in the five nations Rugby Union championship, against France in Paris on January 16, can be labelled the day of the comeback. Although there are three new caps in the team named yesterday, they are virtually overshadowed by the trio who return to international rugby after they must have thought such days were over.

Nigel Melville, the Wasps' scrum half who is 27 tomorrow, returns to the ground where, in March 1986, it appeared his injury-stricken career for England was finished. He left the field after 24 minutes of the France-England game, suffering from a neck injury, and subsequently announced his retirement. His rehabilitation with Headingly, and then Wasps, over the last 10 months appears to have been complete.

He will be joined at the Parc des Princes by Les Cusworth, the Leicester stand-off half whose last England appearance was in 1984, and John Orwin, the Bedford lock who enjoyed one year, 1985, in the limelight before retreating into the shadows and moving from Gloucester to the Midlands.

Alongside them, in a side showing four changes from that beaten 13-7 in Saturday's trial by England B, are the three newcomers - Will Carling, the Durham University centre, Jeff Probyn, the Wasps' tight-head prop, and Michael Skinner, the Harlequins' blind-side flanker. Of these three Probyn and Skinner were both members of England's World-Cup party in Australia but failed to play a game.

Clearly the selectors have not taken the trial match in isolation from the divisional championship and club form. On Saturday, for instance, Rob Andrew stated a clear case for inclusion at stand-off, but only at the last gasp; his form in other matches, like his international career to date, has not been sufficiently consistent to constitute an irresistible argument.

"You have to take great care about making selection decisions on the evidence of just

one match," Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, said yesterday. "Nevertheless some players did not perform in that game up to expectation. Taking all the evidence into consideration we felt we had to make the changes from the trial team that we did, which were probably twice as many as I had hoped for."

One of those changes was undoubtedly full back where Jon Webb reclaims his World Cup place, leaving Simon Hodgkinson to be content with a place in the B XV. Another was the number six position which goes to Skinner, whose extra inches were the clinching argument ahead of Leicester's John Wells.

"We felt we could not go to Paris without height in the lineout, which is the dominant

feature in any game," Cooke said. "We reckon 75 per cent of the French play stems from their work in the lineout at the back."

Skinner, who is 6ft 4in tall and played for Baydon before moving south in 1979 to Blackheath, and subsequently Harlequins, was delighted with his selection at an age, 29, when perhaps international honours for the first time will have a lost cause. Now he will have to defend his place against the possible re-emergence of John Hall, who has just recovered from injury and played for Bath at the weekend.

Carling, aged 22 who is studying psychology on an Army scholarship at Durham, re-establishes a central pairing with Kevin Simms which brought him to prominence.

All the players in the B party were involved in one capacity or another in the trial on Saturday save one - Andy Sutton, the Cambridge University stand-off half who has dual qualifications for England and Wales, who played for Welsh Schools and now appears as the replacement to Williams.

Williams, who is 27, was involved in the trial on Saturday against France at the Jean Bouin Stadium on January 16, three hours before the championship game in the Parc des Princes next door (David Hands writes).

He is one of the four permitted senior internationals in the team; the others are Gary Pearce, the Northampton prop who will lead the pack, Nigel Redman, the Bath lock, and Bryan Barley, the Wakefield centre capped four times in 1984 but who has since undergone serious operations on both knees before rediscovering the form

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## Raymond to make a 'firm offer'

By Dennis Signy

Paul Raymond, the wealthy club owner who had talks with Elton John's manager at the weekend about buying the controlling interest in Watford for £2 million, flew to Antigua last night saying he would consider making an offer while he is away.

"I've always fancied owning a football team," Raymond said. "I might have preferred Chelsea but as that is not for sale I think Watford will be a good bet."

"I have assured Elton's advisors that next week I will be making a firm offer. They know roughly what that offer will be. I sincerely hope I'll be the new owner. It will be a great honour for me to own that marvellous club. It's a good family club but it's not doing so well at the moment, as we all know. I think it would fit in with my future plans for expansion."

When challenged over his public image, which is in contrast to Watford's family appeal, he said: "It's not up to me to argue about what the Press say about me."

If Raymond's intended purchase goes ahead, he would, he says, introduce live entertainment before matches and at half-time but added that it would not be the sort seen at his review bar. "A football club should be a lot more than a football club," he said. "It should be the social centre - the social club - of the town, especially when you've got a smallish town like Watford."

Raymond, aged 61, met John Reid, a Watford director and the rock musician's manager, in London to discuss a possible take-over. Meanwhile, Paul White, of the Hanover Drace Company that is handling negotiations to find a replacement for John, confirmed that other potential buyers were waiting in the wings.

It is unlikely that there will be a firm development before an extraordinary general meeting of Football League clubs on January 19 to vote on a one-man, one-club ruling. Robert Maxwell, the newspaper publisher and chairman of Derby County, who earlier agreed to buy John's stake in Watford, is expected to make his intentions clear after that meeting.

Raymond added that he did not foresee objections by the League management committee. "I don't see why they should object with the money I've got."

## Wark back to happiness

John Wark, Liverpool's out-of-favour midfielder, last night agreed to a £100,000 move to the second division promotion challengers, Ipswich Town (Ian Ross writes).

The former Scottish international, aged 30, travelled to East Anglia yesterday for talks with John Duncan, the Ipswich manager, after rejecting a move to Coventry City, the FA Cup holders.

Wark spoke to John Silleit, City's team manager, after



Ready for take-off and take-over: Raymond and his family leave Heathrow for Antigua

## FA makes plea to Europe

By Stuart Jones

The Football Association is to ask UEFA whether the runners-up in the championship can represent the nation in next season's European Cup if the ban on English clubs is lifted. Although the title will almost certainly be claimed by Liverpool, they are not eligible for the competition.

They were ordered by UEFA to serve a further suspension of three years because of the contribution of their supporters to the tragic events at the Heysel Stadium in 1985. Four times the winners of the European Cup, Liverpool therefore cannot qualify again until 1991 at the earliest.

The FA asked if Manchester City, the first division runners-up, could be admitted as well. The idea was rejected. Liverpool went on to retain the European Cup and Manchester City had to be content with competing in the UEFA Cup, in which they were knocked out in the first round by Widzew Lodz.

It is said that Liverpool will not ultimately be rewarded for potentially the best season in their history, during which they are threatening to break several records. It would be equally ironic if, as soon as UEFA re-opened the door to the continent, no one was able to enter the main event.

## Cruyff is leaving Ajax

Amsterdam (AFP) - Johan Cruyff has resigned as manager of Ajax after three years in the job. The news was broken by the team captain, John van 't Schip, shortly before a training session yesterday. Club officials refused to comment.

Cruyff's name has been linked with his former club, Barcelona, as well as Paris Saint Germain, over the past week, after rumours that he was unhappy at Ajax began to circulate in the Dutch Press.

It was claimed that Cruyff, aged 40, was at odds with several players but van 't Schip denied this. Last week Francis Borrelli, the Paris Saint Germain president, said they wanted Cruyff as their new coach.

Cruyff left Ajax on the field in their glory days of the early 1970s, when they won the European Cup for three successive years. He returned as technical director in June 1983, 12 years after leaving to play for Barcelona.

## Defiant Swiss athlete's case submitted to IAAF tribunal

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

Sandra Gasser's insistence that she is not guilty of drug taking has forced the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to assemble its arbitration panel for only the second time since it was set up.

The Swiss athlete's case, imposed on her by the IAAF following her positive drug test at the world championships last summer where she placed third in the 1,500 metres final, will be heard in London on January 18.

Miss Gasser has made the strongest representations of innocence, claiming that, if her Rome urine sample contained prohibited drugs, then they must have been fed to her in a "spiked" drink.

John Holt, IAAF general secretary, confirmed yesterday that both of Miss Gasser's urine samples were "very positive with anabolic steroids."

Miss Gasser's case is causing much acrimony at a time when the IAAF is under pressure, generally for not doing enough about drugs in athletics, and individually on Dr Primo Nebiolo, the federation president.

The Italian media has called for Dr Nebiolo's resignation, for his alleged involvement in the award of the long jump bronze medal at the world championships to the Italian athlete, Giovanni Evangelisti, for an effort which has been proven to be almost half a

metre less than that recorded on the day.

But what has angered Holt is that Miss Gasser went to a civil court in Switzerland before Christmas, claiming restraint of trade.

The case, in Bern, was defended by the Swiss Athletics Federation. But the judge found in favour of Miss Gasser, and in separate judgements on December 22 and 23

of the court in Bern was absolutely extraordinary. We can't have the national courts of 181 member nations telling us what to do.

"We are going to give this athlete a hearing, January 18 isn't a long time to wait. But she appears not to be doing this for athletics reasons, simply to cook a snooker at the IAAF."

Miss Gasser said yesterday that she had not yet been told officially about the arbitration panel but expected to be invited to appear personally.

She added: "If they still refuse to let me run, I will continue in the civil courts. I will not run before January 18 but there is a national indoor meeting in Magglingen on January 22, and, because of the Bern judgement, I intend to run there."

This is an extraordinary situation, and one which many banned athletes will watch closely. It would seem that only proof that Miss Gasser had been sabotaged can lift the ban.

The arbitration panel first met two years ago and gave leave for Renato Nchemiah to be reinstated after he had played American football. The tribunal this time will be Robert Elliott, Australia, Mrs Evelyn Herberg, East Germany, and Lauri Tarasti, Finland.

The irony is that the Swiss federation is backing Miss Gasser's claim to the arbitra-

tion panel on January 18. Holt said yesterday: "The decision of the court in Bern was absolutely extraordinary. We can't have the national courts of 181 member nations telling us what to do."

"We are going to give this athlete a hearing, January 18 isn't a long time to wait. But she appears not to be doing this for athletics reasons, simply to cook a snooker at the IAAF."

## Orrell's Williams to captain the B team

Peter Williams, England's stand-off half during the World Cup last year, will captain England in the B international against France at the Jean Bouin Stadium on January 16, three hours before the championship game in the Parc des Princes next door (David Hands writes).

He is one of the four permitted senior internationals in the team; the others are Gary Pearce, the Northampton prop who will lead the pack, Nigel Redman, the Bath lock, and Bryan Barley, the Wakefield centre capped four times in 1984 but who has since undergone serious operations on both knees before rediscovering the form

which brought him to prominence.

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## Wales captain latest in long line of injuries

Bledydd Bowen, the Wales rugby union captain, has withdrawn from the trial in Cardiff on Saturday through illness but the South Wales Police centre hopes to recover for the opening Five Nations international against England at Twickenham on February 6.

Keith Hopkins, of Swansea, is promoted to the Probables to replace Bowen, while Nigel Davies, of Llanelli, is called into the Possibles. David Waters (Newport) and David Wintle (London Welsh) are also given chances for injured Barry Clegg (Neath) and Glenn Webbe (Bridgend). Staff Jones, last capped in 1984, joins the replacements.

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## Soviet Union intends to go to Seoul

Frankfurt (AP) - Marat Gramov, the Soviet Union's sports minister, said yesterday that his country intends to take part in the Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea, and that a final decision is expected next week.

Speaking at the start of a six-day visit to West Germany, Gramov, who is also chief of the Soviet national Olympic committee, emphasized: "We do not intend to boycott the Seoul Olympics," adding that the problem of North Korea and its demands to stage some of the events remained to be solved.

Gramov's statement appears to clear the way for all Eastern bloc countries to take part in the Games, which begin in September. The official deadline for accepting invitations to the Games is January 17.

## Warren's next round

Frank Warren, the promoter, is attempting to gain the support of 150 licence-holders to force a special general meeting of the British Boxing Board of Control so that Tony Sibson's world middleweight title challenge against Frank Tate, of the United States, can take place on February 7 without the threat of him and Sibson losing their licences.

The board is refusing to sanction the bout, at Bingley Hall in Stafford, because it is over the International Boxing Federation distance of 15 rounds. The British board recognizes only 12-round contests.

Förster retires

Bonn (Reuters) - West Germany's defender Karl-Heinz Förster said yesterday he had decided to retire from the national football team.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### Keeping mum

England's bowls selectors have declined to release the names of the team to contest the home international series which will be held in Hartlepool in April. The 24 names will be announced tomorrow after the players have been informed.

### Blow for Hull

Dane O'Hara, Hull's former New Zealand international Rugby League captain, will be out for the rest of the season after breaking an arm in a match against Hull KR on Sunday.

### Jackman wins

Cassie Jackman, a Norfolk schoolgirl, won the Under-16 event in the Abbey National women's British junior squash rackets championships yesterday at the Gloucester Country Club. Jackman, aged 15, the No. 1 seed, beat Jane Martin, of Northumbria, 9-5, 9-3, 9-0.

### Fenners visit

Yorkshire have added a first-class cricket fixture to their list for next season with a visit to Fenners from June 11-13 to meet Cambridge University for the first time since 1979.

### Jansher ill

Jansher Khan, the world squash rackets champion, was forced to withdraw from the Jersey international championships in St Helier yesterday because of influenza.

### Forster retires

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## A silver lining for the rivals

By Stuart Jones Football Correspondent

Will Liverpool eventually trip up on the wall-to-wall carpet at Loftus Road? Will they lose the neighbouring dispute at Goodison Park? Will they be brought down by a band of youngsters at Nottingham's City Ground? Will they even be embarrassed in their own home by Alex Ferguson's side?

At this stage, it is more relevant to ask if they can be beaten in a single game than to look ahead to the probable outcome of the championship race. Liverpool's qualities are so overwhelmingly superior that, as even the bookmakers realize, the destiny of the title is a foregone conclusion.

The managers of their rival clubs, all of whose inadequacies were confirmed over the holiday programme, have yet to wave the white flag in public. They will not concede the title, nor will Kenny Dalglish claim it, until confirmation is official... but the race is effectively over.

Even the Football Association has apparently accepted, if UEFA grants the request to allow the runners-up to enter the European Cup, the governing body of the domestic game will have succeeded in reviving the interest of the nation in general and of the relevant clubs in particular.

Nottingham Forest are too inexperienced; their midfield players, whose duties stretch further than any of the other challengers, may also be more tired and subsequently less effective when pitches become patches of mud. There were signs of growing fatigue during Sunday's televised fixture.

Arsenal and Everton continue to be afflicted by the same flaw. They both remain as deficient up front as they are efficient at the back, a problem that has not been solved since the arrival of either Smith at Highbury or Clarke at Goodison Park.

Manchester United, who still rely too heavily on Robson, are inconsistent, as was illustrated last week. But for



Dalglish: not shouting odds

Bolder, they might have humiliated Charlton Athletic on Friday and, but for their own goalkeeper, they might have gone down to a similarly heavy defeat at Watford the following day.

Wimbledon, the muscular comedian, have charged up to join the chasing bunch and, in a more genteel fashion, have Queen's Park Rangers the early leaders who have still retained the Continental sweeper system in spite of the departure of Fenwick. In any other season, they would all now be genuine contenders.

Yet the only honour that remains for the six clubs is to be the first to break Liverpool's unbeaten League record. Arsenal, who visit Anfield on Saturday week, stand at the head of the queue but those waiting behind them would seem to have more promising opportunities.

Liverpool's dislike of artificial surfaces is well known and understandable. They overcame it to beat Luton Town at Kenilworth Road where they must do so again against Rangers on March 5 at the beginning of a month when their sequence, if it is still intact, will be under the most substantial threat.

They will be battered first at home by the warriors from Wimbledon who won 2-1 their last season. Then they must endure another fiery afternoon on the other side of Stanley Park against Everton, who have already achieved the feat by knocking Liverpool out of the Littlewoods Cup.

Everton have an additional reason for inflicting a second defeat. Unless Liverpool's aura of invincibility is soon dispelled, they will be even more certain to suspect the achievement of their local rivals, whose total of points (90) and winning margin (13 points) in 1985 are the most ever recorded.

Should Liverpool survive those two physical ordeals, they will almost immediately undergo two more. They are scheduled to visit Forest on April 2 and two days later to entertain United, recently their most awkward opponents. They have not beaten them in the League since April 1982, 11 fixtures ago.